MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
July 15, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III   James M. Alderman   Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.
Carrie P. Hill

Board Members Present on the Phone:

Stephen Bedner

1. Call to Order

Vice President Alderman called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Michelle Sinclair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Service Award Recognition

- Charles Burn, Crew Leader-Aquatics – 40 years
- Lany Altman – Retirement Recognition

Executive Director Tommy Strowd recognized Charles Burn for 40 years of service at the District. The Board thanked Mr. Burn for his service and dedication and presented him with an engraved survey marker in recognition of his service.

Mr. Strowd recognized the retirement of Lanny Altman and expressed appreciation for his nearly 42 years of dedicated service to the Lake Worth Drainage District. He highlighted Mr. Altman's longstanding commitment, leadership, and contributions to the District's operations, noting that his experience and knowledge had made a lasting impact on the organization.

The Board and, Mr. Strowd thanked Mr. Altman for his years of service and wished him health, happiness, and enjoyment in retirement.

4. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

There were no revisions.

5. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

6. General Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

There were no public comments.

7. Approval of minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month

A motion was made by Vice President Hill to approve the minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

8. Approval to piggyback South Florida Water Management District herbicide contracts for the term ending June 30, 2026 – Megan Hoffman, Vegetation Management Section Leader

Ms. Hoffman reported that, pursuant to LWDD Procurement Policy Sections 1.5.5 and 1.5.5.4, staff recommends piggybacking the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) 2026 annual herbicide price agreements. She explained that the agreements align with the District's operational needs, include nearly all herbicides used by LWDD, provide cost savings through bulk pricing, benefit from the high purchasing volume of participating agencies, and reduce procurement time and administrative effort. She noted that, compared to the prior year, most herbicide prices decreased, with only one product, Trycera, increasing by $0.85 per gallon.

Ms. Hoffman further reported that the 2.5-gallon aquatic glyphosate product was not awarded under the SFWMD bid due to an issue with the bid specifications. While SFWMD evaluates its options, staff obtained interim pricing from the awarded vendors for budgeting purposes, with the lowest quoted price remaining below the previous year's contract price.

She also advised that Lovert adjuvant in 30-gallon drums is not included in the SFWMD bid. Because Brewer International is the sole manufacturer and supplier of the product in the required size, the purchase qualifies for the sole-source exemption under LWDD Procurement Policy Section 1.5.2.

Staff recommended approval to piggyback the SFWMD 2026 herbicide price agreements with the respective successful bidders, purchase Lovert in 30-gallon drums from Brewer International as a sole-source provider, and purchase aquatic glyphosate in 2.5-gallon containers at a price not to exceed $24.00 per gallon through either a future SFWMD price agreement or by obtaining quotes in accordance with LWDD Procurement Policy Section 1.3.

A motion was made by Supervisor Phipps to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth, and approved unanimously.

9. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-27 Preliminary Operating Budget and authorization to advertise – Chris Johnson, Director of Finance

Mr. Johnson reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 preliminary budget, noting that staff's recommendation remained unchanged from the June budget workshop. He reported that the proposed balanced budget totals $20.1 million and is supported by carryforward funds, unassigned surplus funds, the remaining Canal Revetment Fund balance, and maintaining the non-ad valorem assessment rate at $48.50.

Mr. Johnson reviewed updates since the June workshop, including $15,242 in additional revenue from the 10519 Pine Tree Terrace property assessment and an estimated $93,000 reduction in Florida Retirement System contribution costs. These savings were largely offset by an additional $100,000 budgeted for the purchase of two grapple trucks due to higher-than-anticipated pricing.

He advised that no other significant changes had been made to the proposed budget and noted that employee health insurance, property and casualty insurance, and fuel costs remain subject to change prior to final adoption.

Mr. Johnson provided a historical overview of the District's operating budget, noting that operating expenditures have increased from approximately $12 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to an estimated $17 million in Fiscal Year 2026, excluding capital expenditures. He explained that these increases provide context for future discussions regarding the District's non-ad valorem assessment rate.

Mr. LasCasas then reviewed the District's historical capital expenditures and long-term projections for facilities, fleet, canal rehabilitation, and control structures. He noted that future capital needs will primarily be driven by facility improvements, fleet replacement, canal rehabilitation, and aging control structures.

Mr. LasCasas explained that facility improvements completed between 2015 and 2017 will require future rehabilitation as the facilities age. He also reviewed fleet expenditures, noting that replacement costs have stabilized following increased activity between 2015 and 2017, with future costs projected at approximately $1 million to $1.3 million annually due to inflation and rising equipment costs.

The canal rehabilitation program was also discussed, with Mr. LasCasas noting that the District has transitioned from the CRP program to continued MRP rehabilitation efforts. Average costs for hardening canal banks with rock rubble and sod are estimated at approximately $370,000 per mile, depending on site conditions and stabilization needs.

Mr. LasCasas also reviewed control structure projects and future needs, including rehabilitation, gate replacements, and the planned pump installation at Control Structure 12. He noted that aging structures represent the greatest uncertainty in long-term projections, as some may eventually require full replacement at an estimated cost of approximately $12 million per structure, subject to inflation.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the District's available funds, reserves, and revenue outlook. He reported that the District has approximately $52.7 million in committed funds and approximately $8 million in unassigned surplus funds. He noted that maintaining a reserve of approximately 25% of annual operating expenses would provide financial stability during emergency events.

Mr. Johnson also reviewed the District's primary revenue sources, including assessments and interest earnings. He noted that interest earnings have increased significantly since 2022 due to favorable market conditions and the current investment policy; however, future projections anticipate a decline as interest rates decrease over time. He further noted that assessment revenue has remained relatively stable, with limited parcel growth over the past decade and no significant increases anticipated from additional development.

Mr. Johnson concluded by presenting staff recommendations for Board consideration.

Staff recommended approval FY27 Preliminary Operating Budget totaling $20.1 million with a non-ad valorem assessment rate of $48.50 and authorization to advertise the public notice and public hearing for August 12th.

A motion was made by Vice President Hill to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth, and approved unanimously.

Staff also recommended approval of FY27 special non-ad valorem assessment of $15,242.00 specifically for 10519 Pine Tree Terrace (PCN #00-42-45-25-03-000-0430), and authorization to advertise the public notice and public hearing for August 12th.

A motion was made by Vice President Hill to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth, and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

10. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Strowd reported that the Lake Okeechobee stage was 10.96 feet and that the lake had officially entered the water shortage zone. He explained that the Water Management District had not declared a water shortage due to the current wet season and the lake remaining slightly above the regulation schedule.

Mr. Strowd noted that conditions in the upper basin remain a concern, as water levels are below regulation schedules and runoff into the lake has been limited. He stated that conditions are expected to improve with the continued wet season and anticipated rainfall, with potential discharges beginning around mid-August.

He added that the upcoming dry season may be influenced by a Super El Niño pattern, which typically brings above-average rainfall. Mr. Strowd emphasized that while there are no immediate concerns, the lake was recently pushed into the water shortage zone following a significant drought, and continued monitoring will be important.

Ms. Walker reported that the August meeting is expected to be brief, with the budget presentation and health insurance renewal discussion currently planned for the agenda. She noted that, following the upcoming agenda review meeting, staff may consider canceling the August workshop. A final decision will be made at a later date.

11. District Counsel's Report

No additional items to report.

12. Board Reports & Comment

No additional reports or comments.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

President – Stephen Bedner

Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta