

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
SUNSHINE WATER CONTROL DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Sunshine Water Control District held a Regular Meeting on May 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., at the La Quinta Inn Coral Springs, 3701 N. University Drive, Coral Springs, Florida 33065.

**Present:**

Peter Palmer	President
Scott Botting	Vice President
Frankie Romano	Secretary

**Also present:**

Jamie Otero	District Manager
Janice Rustin	District Counsel
Orlando Rubio	District Engineer
Cory Selchan	Field Superintendent
Julio Tejado	South Florida Water Mgt District (SFWMD)
Sreesha Matthew	Resident
Chris Matthew	Resident

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Palmer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Roll Call**

Supervisors Palmer, Botting and Romano were present. Two seats are vacant.

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held to honor fallen law enforcement officers, and be in accord with a candlelight vigil that will be held tonight in Washington D.C.

**FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Public Comments [3-Minute Time Limit]  
(Comments should be made from the  
microphone to ensure recording. Please  
state your name prior to speaking.)**

Resident Sreesha Matthew stated she paid a \$2,500 bond in 2024 for permission to proceed with a vertical construction to her home, which was to be refunded upon completion of the project. The project was recently completed and when she tried to recover the \$2,500 bond, she was informed that a tree must be removed. Mr. Selchan stated she applied for a Letter of No Objection from the District, which states everything must be removed from the canal right-of-way (ROW). The request was submitted yesterday, which was not enough time to secure several tree removal bids. The only bid received was \$7,800. Mr. Palmer stated this item will be tabled to the next meeting as more time is needed to secure/consider additional bids. Once additional bids have been obtained and the tree is removed, the money will be refunded and the matter will be resolved.

This item was deferred and will be included on the next agenda.

**FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Resolution 2026-04,  
Approving a Proposed Budget for Fiscal  
Year 2026/2027 and Setting a Public  
Hearing Thereon Pursuant to Florida Law;  
Addressing Transmittal, Posting and  
Publication Requirements; Addressing  
Severability; and Providing an Effective  
Date**

**On MOTION by Mr. Botting and seconded by Mr. Palmer, with all in favor,  
tabling consideration of Resolution 2026-04 to the next meeting, was  
approved.**

Ms. Otero stated it is fine to defer this since the proposed budget meetings are typically in June. However, since the District is in Broward County, which utilizes the Truth In Millage (TRIM) process, the budget adoption meeting must be held on September 14, 2026. For advertising purposes, the Board’s availability for that date is needed as soon as possible.

Mr. Botting voiced his opinion that the proposed Fiscal Year 20247 budget is dense and asked why it was provided to the Board late. Ms. Otero stated she spoke to each Board

Member yesterday about the issues. For Staff’s awareness, the agenda books are typically shipped the Monday prior to the meeting for the Board to review; however, since budget season is Management’s busiest time of year, the budget was not finalized until yesterday. Updated electronic agendas were then emailed to the Board. Mr. Botting recommended Management communicate any issues to the Board one week prior to dissemination of the agendas so the Board and Staff can collectively defer items to the next meeting.

Mr. Palmer suggested redirecting that issue later in the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding availability for a September 14, 2026 meeting.

**SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Resolution 2026-05, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and Providing for an Effective Date**

Mr. Palmer presented Resolution 2026-05. A Board Member noted that November 11, 2026 is Veterans Day.

The following change will be made to the Fiscal Year 2027 Meeting Schedule:

DATE: Delete November 11, 2026 meeting.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Botting, with all in favor, Resolution 2026-05, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, as amended, and Providing for an Effective Date, as amended, was adopted.**

**SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Discussion: SWCD Procedures with City of Coral Springs**

Ms. Otero stated Mr. Botting asked for this item to be placed on the agenda.

Mr. Botting asked District Counsel about the tree removal process. He objects to the District needing permission from the City for tree removal. He asked why the District must pay the City if trees are being removed from its own easement on District property. Ms. Rustin stated the District is within the jurisdiction of the City, the same way it is in the jurisdiction of the County. Mr. Botting voiced his belief that the easement is considered State property, and

the State supersedes City government. He thinks the City is double-taxing homeowners and that it is wrong that homeowners are paying assessments for the District to handle the canals, but the District must use funds to pull permits to remove trees on State property. Asked if the easements are owned by the City or the State, Mr. Selchan stated easements are owned by the property owner. What Mr. Botting is referring to is the public ROW.

Ms. Rustin stated she could contact the City Attorney to request an exemption, and reach out to neighboring improvement districts for their feedback and initiate a discussion. Mr. Botting stated he is open to discussions and voiced his opinion that the District is willing to pull permits but should be exempt from paying any fees. Mr. Selchan concurred with Mr. Botting and suggested the Board consider granting Mr. Botting authority to meet with City officials to explain his feelings. He noted the permit fees are not very costly but the mitigation fees are. Mr. Palmer stated he is in favor of Mr. Botting establishing/leading a committee to review the District's procedures with the City. Ms. Rustin stated the Board could authorize Mr. Botting to attend a City Council meeting or meet with planning and zoning officials to voice his opinion. It was noted that it would be ideal for Mr. Botting to meet with the City Manager.

Discussion ensued regarding the difference between the permit fee and the mitigation fee, nuisance trees, the mitigation process, the most recent mitigation fee that the District paid, the outcome of previous disagreements with the City, the case law relating to similar matters, and what happens if City officials reject Mr. Botting's assertion.

Ms. Rustin will contact the representatives at the CSID, work on negotiating with the City Attorney and try to find the right people and the right tone.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, authorizing Mr. Botting to Chair a committee, reviewing the District Procedures with the City of Coral Springs, was approved.**

Asked if she should still arrange for Mr. Botting to meet with the City Manager, Mr. Palmer stated Ms. Rustin should discuss it with the City and provide an update at the next meeting, and that will dictate the Board's next move.

**EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Drainage Easement Over the City Village Project**

Ms. Rustin presented the Non-Exclusive Grant of Easement between the District and the Amera Downtown Development Company LLC, and Coral Springs Village Square Association Inc. This is related to drainage rights over a development. Originally, the District conveyed part of its ROW to the Developer, who subsequently built a project and is now granting the District flow rights over the area. The Developer will be maintaining any improvements for the drainage rights and will be subject to inspection. This document also ensures that the District will not be liable for any damages that occur as a result of any drainage work. In response to a question, Mr. Selchan stated the District originally sold the easement property to the Developer, they were going to fill it in and install culverts in a completely different direction. He asked if the plan changed. Mr. Rubio stated the plan is still to go north and south and install the culvert where the canal is located. Mr. Botting asked why this is being discussed if the area was previously sold to the Developer. Mr. Rubio stated so the District has drainage flowage rights.

Mr. Rubio, Mr. Selchan and Ms. Rustin discussed whether the Developer provided construction documents, if the District is responsible for culvert maintenance, if Staff will conduct inspections of the construction process, the asking price for the property, and if proceeds were placed in the General Fund.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Botting, with all in favor, the Non-Exclusive Grant of Easement between the District and the Amera Downtown Development Company LLC, and Coral Springs Village Square Association Inc., was approved.**

Ms. Rustin stated this is a cost-recovery project, which means her firm’s legal fees will be charged to the Developer.

**NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026**

Mr. Palmer tabled this item to the next meeting.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, tabling consideration of the Unaudited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2026, and amending the agenda to reflect this action, was approved.**

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of March 30, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Palmer tabled this item to the next meeting.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, tabling consideration of the March 30, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, and amending the agenda to reflect this action, was approved.**

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisors' Communications

In response to Mr. Romano's question regarding equipment needs, Mr. Selchan stated new outboards were recently purchased and his department is in good shape.

Mr. Botting stated he recently visited every pump station with Mr. Selchan, including the one near Taravella High School. It was brought to his attention that crews are mowing the grass at Taravella and the Coral Springs post office. He asserted that the District is using its manpower, equipment, and fuel to maintain County property and that, as the District needs to be fiscally responsible, it will no longer provide those services. He motioned for District Counsel to inform the Broward County School Board and Federal Government to start maintaining the areas adjacent to their properties and, if they are not in compliance within a certain time, the District will continue maintaining the areas and seek reimbursement. Mr. Selchan concurred with Mr. Botting's suggestion. Mr. Botting stated the next step will be for Staff to develop a policy of how to address this issue.

Asked if the letter should be on SWCD letterhead with the District Manager signing off on it or on letterhead from the offices of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., Mr. Botting stated the notification letter should be sent on District letterhead by the District Manager and failure to comply letters could be sent by District Counsel on District Counsel's letterhead.

**On MOTION by Mr. Botting and seconded by Mr. Palmer, with all in favor, authorizing District Management to send written notification, on Sunshine Water Control District letterhead, to the Broward County School Board and Federal Government advising them to maintain the areas adjacent to their properties within a certain time, and further advising them that, if noncompliant, the District will maintain the area and invoice them for reimbursement, was approved.**

Discussion ensued regarding the prior Boards' discussions about easement maintenance, mitigation fees, permit fees, City codes, jurisdictional issues, if the City has authority to issue fines and make money on property they do not control, whether the District supersedes the City, the District's fee simple ownership of public ROWs, and the need to schedule a mitigation meeting with the City Forester and City Attorney.

Asked for his feedback, Mr. Rubio discussed permitting agencies, such as the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) issuing permit applications with mitigation fees if the mitigation is done off site, tree permitting in the County, how the City handles tree permitting in its jurisdiction, Arborists, nuisance trees, and the mitigation requirement for specimen trees.

Mr. Botting voiced his opinion that local municipalities and agencies are making money off District properties and waterways.

Ms. Rustin will work with the School Board to get them to maintain their properties and set up a mitigation meeting for Mr. Botting with City officials.

Asked how many acres are being maintained by District crews, Mr. Selchan stated the majority of the mowing is on Sample Road to the C14 Canal, which is the east outfall, and a few other areas. Asked for an estimate of the un-invoiced maintenance costs, Mr. Selchan estimated \$20,000 per year.

For the audience's information, Mr. Palmer discussed the stipulations of the Sunshine Law that Board Members must abide by and stated everything discussed at regular meetings are public records. He was recently told not to take a picture during a meeting. He stated he disagrees with that notion. He voiced his disappointment about not receiving the most recent agenda packet in a timely fashion. Going forward, the agenda books must be forwarded to the Board Members, digitally and physically, the Friday before the week of the meeting.

Asked for District Counsel's feedback, Ms. Rustin stated that public meetings can be videotaped, recorded, and are open to the public with zero right to privacy. Asked for District Management's feedback, Ms. Otero stated she previously apologized to the Board for the delay in transmitting the agenda books; Staff will send an updated email if a new item is added to the agenda. She stated it will not happen again.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing an agenda policy, how to handle walk-on items, whether the Board prefers digital or hard copy agendas, meeting cancellations and a District Instagram account.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Botting, with all in favor, directing District Management to send the agenda books to the Board Members no later than the Friday before each meeting, regardless of whether the packet is complete, was approved.**

**TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Staff Reports**

**A. District Counsel: Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.**

Ms. Rustin stated she recently learned that the State Attorney’s office contacted certain Board Supervisors about Sunshine Law violations. She stated Sunshine Law violations are criminal violations that are investigated by the State Attorney, not the Commission on Ethics. She asked the Board Supervisors to be mindful of the Sunshine Law and not congregate in the parking lot after meetings.

**B. District Engineer: Craig A. Smith & Associates**

**I. Presentation: Monthly Engineer’s Report**

Mr. Rubio presented the Monthly Engineer’s Report from March 30, 2026 to May 6, 2026, and provided updates on the Pump Station 3 (PS3) Replacement at Royal Lands, the West Outfall Canal Improvements Project, and the Culvert E18 Repair. He asked for approval of the \$23,744.20 Change Order to install sand-cement rip-rap bags around the existing headwall to keep material from eroding at PS3. Mr. Selchan presented photographs of the lake bank and explained the scope of work.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Botting, with all in favor, the Change Order to prevent erosion at Pump Station 3, in the amount of \$23,744.20, was approved.**

Mr. Rubio presented the following:

Asked if any of the requests will impact any District structures, Mr. Rubio stated no.

**II. Permit Application(s)**

- **Comcast JB0001943504**

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Botting, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Comcast for the installation of 67 LF 1-2" HDPE conduits by SWCD Canal "S", subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 30, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HCS363

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Mastec Communications Group via Tillman Fiber for directional bore installation of 200 LF of 1-2" HDPE conduits by SWCD Canals U, R-2, & O, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 30, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HCS217

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Mastec Communications Group via Tillman Fiber for directional bore installation of 70 LF of 1-2" HDPE conduits adjacent to SWCD Canal W, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 30, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HCS219

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Mastec Communications Group via Tillman Fiber for directional bore installation of 80 LF of 1.5" HDPE conduits adjacent to SWCD Canal V, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 30, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HCS221

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Mastec Communications Group via Tillman Fiber for directional bore installation of 75 LF of 1-2" HDPE conduits under Canal J, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 30, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HC353

On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by MCIMetro via Amdocs for directional bore installation of 58 LF of 1-2" HDPE conduits under SWCD Canal L16-5, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the February 4, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.

- Mastec D-HC341

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Comcast for directional bore installation of 60LF of 1-2” HDPE conduits under SWCD Canal GG, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the February 11, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.**

- **Mastec D-HC321**

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Right-of-Way Permit Application, submitted by Comcast for directional bore installation of 70 LF of 1-2” HDPE conduits under SWCD Canal X, subject to the Special Conditions set forth in the March 31, 2026 recommendation letter, was approved.**

**C. District Field Supervisor: Cory Selchan**

Mr. Selchan reported the following:

- Rainfall: The District is recovering from an extreme drought and received slightly over ¼” of rain this month, which slightly increased the water levels.  
 Asked how much rainfall has fallen year to date, Mr. Selchan stated roughly 11”.
- This is a busy time of year. Crews are controlling weed growth.
- Grass carp was ordered to stock the canals as the water levels rise. He explained the benefits of stocking fish in the canals.

**The meeting recessed at 6:19 p.m. and reconvened at 6:22 p.m.**

**D. District Manager: Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC**

Ms. Otero reported that the Board previously asked Staff to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an operational audit. It was advertised but there were no responses. She asked about next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of responses, the project requirements, commodity codes, amending the RFP, performance review audits for fire districts, whether to re-advertise the RFP, District needs and goals, competitive solicitation, the budget, assessments, and the increase in millage rates.

**I. Consideration of Obstructions Removal Agreement – Option 2 [10630 NW 41 St]**

Ms. Otero presented the Option 2 Agreement and explained the obstruction removal process.

**On MOTION by Mr. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Romano, with all in favor, the Obstructions Removal Agreement – Option 2 for 10630 NW 41 St, and the Grateful Tree and Hedge Proposal, were approved.**

**II. Consideration of Obstruction Removal Request Proposals**

This item was included with Item 12DI.

**III. 34,750 Registered Voters in District as of April 15, 2026**

**IV. NEXT MEETING DATE: June 10, 2026 at 4:00 PM**

- **QUORUM CHECK**
- **Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form (for informational purposes)**

**THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Public Comments**

Ms. Matthew noted that obstruction permits must be approved during Board meetings and asked if the City can approve permits if a District meeting is cancelled. Mr. Palmer stated no because the District is a separate State governing authority inside the City and has its own taxing authority.

**FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**New Business**

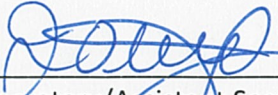
There was no new business.

**FIFTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]



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Secretary/Assistant Secretary



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President/Vice President