

Board Of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
North St. Lucie River Water Control District
October 30, 2025

Present were Supervisors Steve Cassens, Wes Carlton, and H. M. Ridgely, III, Attorney Seth Behn, Engineer Patrick Helms, Supervisor of Works Bill Price, and Secretary Patricia Kuta. Also present were Ryan Rader, West St. Lucie Farms and Paul Whalen, TAC Environmental (via teleconference), and Matthew Biondoillo, South Florida Water Management District (Gordy Road gate position sensors).

Upon motion made by Supervisor Ridgely, seconded by Supervisor Carlton and carried, disbursements for the month of October in the amount of \$140,306.97 were approved as were the minutes of the September Meeting. Additionally, motion was made by Supervisor Ridgely, seconded by Supervisor Carlton and carried to accept the amended 2024-2025 budget and accept the 2025-2026 budget.

A culvert crossing Canal 47 failed and needs to be replaced. West St. Lucie Farms purchased an in-kind replacement culvert and, because the District uses the crossing for maintenance purposes, West St. Lucie Farms is requesting the District install the new culvert and waive the application fees. Motion was made by supervisor Carlton, seconded by Supervisor Ridgely, and carried to install the culvert and waive all fees.

Coordination continues with South Florida Water Management District regarding the Gordy Structure. Work is being done to generate updated flow calculations with the new gate configuration. Also, South Florida Water Management District is looking into monitoring equipment that can be installed to determine gate opening heights. A conceptual design for the gate position sensors has been completed, and South Florida Water Management District is requesting Board approval for the final design. South Florida Water Management District will install and maintain the sensors at no cost to the District. Also, the handrail will be extended for safety purposes. The Board is requesting a permit application with Special Conditions.

Secretary reported payroll tax deposits were made, payments were made and forms completed for the Florida Retirement System, invoices were paid for the month of October, invoices for October were mailed, as were the annual permits, and general office correspondence was handled.

The Supervisor of Works stated that the District is in good shape and water levels are good. Canals 38, 39, 44, 45, 46, 59, and 86 are being cleaned and Canals 43, 44, 411, 59, and 86 are being mowed. The dirt road at South Header Canal is being graded.

Attorney Behn reported that he received a letter from Comcast regarding the linear feet costs and the increase in the application fees. He also received a call from the Florida Association of Special Districts attorney about the imposition of right-of-way fees. The District may need to adjust/justify the costs. A telephone conference was held with the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections to discuss the mail ballot referendum for the assessment increase. The time frame to inform the Tax Collector's office of the District's annual assessment may need to be changed.

It was suggested that a joint Special Meeting be held with the Fort Pierce Farms Water Control District to discuss employing a General Manager/District Supervisor to oversee both Districts.

Patrick Helms recommended the following permits for approval: St. Lucie County Midway Road Force Main & Brine Line (Canals 85, 90, 91, 92, 93), Comcast Crossings (two new, one modification - Canals 57, 50, 52), Florida Power & Light (Canals 74, 75), American Silicone (Canals 14, 15), U-Haul (Canal 17), Woodspring Suites (Canal 38), and 3700 Okeechobee Road (Five Mile Creek). Motion was made by Supervisor Ridgely, seconded by Supervisor Carlton, and carried to approve the permits, with Special Conditions and application fee payments. Revised plans for the previously permitted LTC Ranch Force Main and Reclaimed Water Main Project were received and staff asked for a permit modification, however, the Board requested a new permit application.

During construction of the Pineapple Groves development, significant earthwork was performed along Canal 33 in direct violation of the permits Special Conditions. This work caused significant destabilization of the canal bank, and a stop-work order was put in place. Further review of the construction plans indicated errors including incorrect pipe sizing. The Board requested a resubmittal of detailed reconstruction plans showing an alternative drainage plan. Additionally, the original permit will be cancelled and a new one issued with firm Special Conditions and Maintenance Contract. The site will be inspected on a more frequent basis.

Engineering was contacted by a landowner regarding access/easement and a damage outfall for a property located on the south side of Canal 39. This easement, which belongs to the property owner, was being used by the District for maintenance purposes. Future maintenance will be done from the north side of the Canal.

A representative from a mobile home community's landowner asked if the homes next to or within the District's Canal 4 right-of-way can be placed. The Board denied the request.

Following significant rain events in October, both Shinn Road and Peacock Road were temporarily closed due to flooding and washouts. The Board requested St. Lucie County submit a permit identifying improvements/corrective measures to mitigate similar issues during future storm events.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Steve Cassens, President

Patricia Kuta, Secretary