

Board Of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
North St. Lucie River Water Control District
August 27, 2026

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 Al Faust and Dan Martin, Palm Grove Homeowners Association.

Upon motion made by Supervisor Carlton, seconded by Supervisor Ridgely and carried, disbursements for the months of August in the amount of \$88,227.02 were approved as were the minutes of the July Meeting.

Representatives from Palm Grove addressed the Board regarding erosion on the east side of Canal 17 that is damaging their irrigation lines. It appears a discharge pipe from the storage facility is the cause of the erosion. A letter will be sent to the storage facility requesting them to rectify the situation.

Secretary reported that payroll tax deposits were made, payment made and forms completed for the Florida Retirement System, invoices paid for the month of August, invoices for August were mailed, as were the annual permits, and general office correspondence was handled. Because the bank information in the SAM account is set up in the Districts TD Bank account the Fort Pierce Farms pay request reimbursement was deposited in that account. Motion was made by Supervisor Ridgely, seconded by Supervisor Carlton and carried to transfer the funds provided authorization from the Natural Resources Conservation Service is received. The December meeting was moved to December 17 due to conflicting vacation dates.

The Supervisor of Works report stated that the District is in good shape and water levels are good. Canals 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 71, and 86 are being cleaned and Canals 44, 71, 73 and 80 are being mowed. Pump 1 was being worked on.

Attorney Behn stated that it has been a routine month. Two resumes were received for the District Manager position. Copies will be sent to the Board for their review. Supervisor Ridgely was elected to represent the Board for a Zoom Meeting with Attorney Behn to discuss the applicants, and the results will be presented at the September meeting.

A certification request for the Savannas Suntrail was received from the Florida Department of Transportation; however, following the completion of the project, the Florida Department of Transportation will no longer own or maintain the trail and St. Lucie County will assume responsibility for it. A Maintenance Agreement directly with the County is required. Attorney Behn and Patrick Helms will meet with the County Attorney regarding this Agreement.

Patrick Helms recommended the following permits for approval: Zayo Fiber Optic Crossing (Canal 33), Tillman Fiber Optic Crossing (Canal 27), White Marsh Lot 3 (Canal 58) and Commuter Cars (Canal 17). Motion was made by Supervisor Carlton, seconded by Supervisor Ridgely, and carried to approve the permits, with Special Conditions. Additionally, The Florida Department of Transportation requested a permit modification for the Canal 32E culverts. The request was to reduce seven of the proposed

driveway culverts from 72 inches to 60 inches. The Board suggested using elliptical pipes and no action was taken.

Under the 2017 Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and the District, the District agreed to maintain Canal 32E south of the I-95 overpass. Under the 2022 Memorandum of Agreement, the District also assumed the responsibility of maintaining Canal 32E and 32W until the Florida Department of Transportation issues a notice to proceed to the contractor. These areas are overgrown and the District will need to grind the vegetation.

The owner of the Eagle Bend project is in the process of purchasing an additional 60 acres east of Canal 30 and is requesting the District to abandon a portion of Canal 31 right-of-way to encompass the contributing drainage areas. The District suggested that, if the purchase goes through, all the rights-of-way may be abandoned.

The Hillside Development developer contacted Engineering. The County requires secondary emergency access, but protected wetlands under a conservation easement limit the available options. The developer has asked the Board to consider allowing a stabilized or paved emergency access within the north right-of-way of Canal 28. The Board recommended turning over the complete right-of-way and the County can maintain the Canal. Otherwise, no action will be taken.

During a site inspection of the Bev Smith KIA project, a deteriorated culvert crossing Canal 17 north of Tropical Isles was observed. Although the culvert appears to remain functional, it does not appear to serve any purpose and should be removed.

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

Steve Cassens, President

Patricia Kuta, Secretary