

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SUNSHINE WATER CONTROL DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Sunshine Water Control District held a Regular Meeting on December 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at the Sartory Hall, 10150 NW 29th Street, Coral Springs, Florida 33065.

Present were:

Joe Morera	President
Ivan Ortiz	Vice President
Carol Smith (via telephone)	Secretary

Also present:

Jamie Sanchez	District Manager
Janice Rustin	District Counsel
Orlando Rubio	District Engineer
Cory Selchan	Field Superintendent
Patty Villaran (via telephone)	Gallagher & Associates

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Mr. Morera called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call

Supervisors Morera and Ortiz were present in person. Supervisor Smith attended via telephone.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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)

There were no public comments.

Ms. Sanchez stated, for the record, that due to an event at Sartory Hall, tonight's meeting is being held in Mullins Hall, 10150 NW 29th Street, Coral Springs, Florida.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Discussion/Consideration of 2023-2024 Legislative Representation Proposal

Ms. Rustin stated that Mr. Lyons, who will represent the District in this matter, could not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. She presented the proposal from Lewis Longman & Walker for 2023/2024 Legislative Representation. She stated a flat rate would be charged to keep the District apprised of what is happening in the legislative session; the fee will be \$24,000, payable in nine monthly payments of \$2,666.66. Mr. Lyons previously indicated that a bill was filed today that will not impact the 298 Districts, as much as other Districts, involving term limits in 12 years, dissolution, filing of goals and objectives where every District would have to show goals and objectives. Ms. Rustin stated this is the type of bill that Mr. Lyons will keep the Board updated on.

Mr. Morera stated this item has been tabled a few times and asked for the Board Members' views and positions as to whether to entertain engaging Mr. Lyons to be a representative for the 23/24 legislative session, as outlined in the proposal.

Ms. Smith voiced her opinion that, given the political climate, it might be a good idea to engage Mr. Lyons, as situations and issues come up quickly in a legislative session.

Mr. Ortiz stated the term and professional fees in the proposal are from October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and the District is past the October 1, 2023 date. He recommended amending the term from nine months to six months and pro-rating the amount in order for the District to proceed with the proposal.

Mr. Morera stated he read the proposal and did a lot of soul-searching as to whether it would benefit the District and, considering a number of factors, including the cost and return on investment that the District might gain by engaging Mr. Lyons and the current political

environment, his opinion is that it would be prudent to have Mr. Lyons advocate for the District, so long as he is agreeable with the adjustment suggested by Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Morera stated that he inquired as to funding sources to support this expenditure and the District is in a position to absorb this cost, based on today's financial environment, and he believes it would not be detrimental to the District to engage Mr. Lyons. Further, the proposal allows the District to sever the contract at any point, with proper notice, if the Board thinks it is not receiving the desired level of benefit.

On MOTION by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Ms. Smith, with all in favor, the Lewis, Longman & Walker Proposal for 2023-2024 Legislative Representation, subject to changing the contract term to six months, was approved.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of AvMed Renewal

Ms. Sanchez stated that the Board previously indicated, on more than one occasion, that it would like to keep the benefits the same for District employees. In the past, the health care budget has been increased by 15%, the current budget renewal proposed is only increasing by 5%, so it is well under-budget. There are other options but this is the most advantageous to stay with.

Ms. Villaran stated the District has an excellent benefit plan in place for its employees and it is definitely the best plan. She stated this is a grandfathered plan that has been in place since 2010 and, should the Board decide to move away from the plan, it cannot be re-started. Ms. Villaran recalled previously introducing the Board to similar plans with FloridaBlue and United Health Care, with low deductibles and low out of pocket maximums but, ultimately, she feels that staying with the same carrier is the best option because it is the same network, the employees know how to use the plan and the employees are comfortable with and appreciate the plan. Further, although the alternate plans are good, there is always a chance that someone's doctor does not participate with the other carriers' plans.

Discussion ensued regarding the 5% cost increase, AvMed's lower out-of-pocket costs and whether to remain with AvMed.

Asked for his opinion, Mr. Selchan stated he has advocated to keep this insurance plan for the past 20 years as good insurance is the one item that the District offers its employees to show appreciation for their hard work and it is also an incentive for recruiting good new hires and maintaining a low turnover rate. He discussed two recent employee resignations, two new hires and the costs-savings due to the age differential.

Mr. Morera stated market changes will dictate the unknown, potential decision-making by a future Board might dictate different changes, but, for now, his opinion is that it would be prudent for the District to keep the AvMed plan and not change carriers given how beneficial it is to the District employees.

The Board consensus was to accept the new renewal program for medical, dental and vision, along with life insurance and long and short-term disability.

On MOTION by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Ortiz, with all in favor, renewing the Sunshine Water Control District’s insurance benefits plan with AvMed, for 2024, was approved.

Per Ms. Villaran, Ms. Sanchez will send written confirmation of the renewal to Ms. Villaran for her records.

Ms. Villaran left the call.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023

Ms. Sanchez presented the Unaudited Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023.

Mr. Morera questioned the “Fuel” line item at 0%. Mr. Selchan stated that is an incorrect posting, which will be corrected on the next financials.

Mr. Morera commented that the District is continuing to make payments to draw down the debt service.

On MOTION by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Ms. Smith, with all in favor, the Unaudited Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023, were accepted.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sanchez presented the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

On MOTION by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Ms. Smith, with all in favor, the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented, were approved.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisors' Communications

Ms. Smith apologized for not attending in person and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Mr. Ortiz apologized for not attending the Christmas luncheon, stated that he will not be able to attend the January meeting and wished everyone and their families happy holidays and many blessings.

Mr. Morera wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. He stated the Christmas luncheon was great and gave him an opportunity to meet and connect with new and seasoned District employees. He noted that, under Mr. Selchan's leadership, the employees know what is expected of them and go about doing a great job, as there are very few complaint calls from residents. Mr. Morera thanked everyone for being an integral part of how the District operates. He stated he sincerely appreciates everyone's contribution to the District.

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Staff Reports

- A. District Counsel: Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.**
There was no report.
- B. District Engineer: Craig A. Smith & Associates**
 - I. Presentation: Monthly Engineer's Report**

Mr. Rubio presented the Monthly Engineer’s Report for November and stated there were no permit requests/recommendations to consider. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Discussion ensued regarding the next capital project for 2024, challenges with the Westchester canal project, flood prevention, risers, upsizing a culvert, partnering with Chen Moore and the Royal Palm canal.

C. District Engineering Consultant: John McKune

There was no report.

D. District Field Supervisor: Cory Selchan

Mr. Selchan reported the following:

- The normal mean water level on the east side is 7.5’; recently, it was over 9’ and today the water level is at 7’.
- There was an issue with a resident regarding a sprinkler broken by the District’s contractor; the Board has been copied on the details. Rio-Bak has offered to resolve the issue and appease the resident.
- The punch list for the pump stations and all District projects are completed.
- District Staff has accomplished a great deal in resolving the pump station issues after 13 years.

Mr. Selchan wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Selchan for doing a great job.

E. District Manager: Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC

- **NEXT MEETING DATE: January 10, 2024 at 6:30 PM**
 - **QUORUM CHECK**

Mr. Morera and Ms. Smith confirmed their in-person attendance at the January 10, 2024 meeting.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.


TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Adjournment

On MOTION by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Ortiz, with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]


Secretary/Assistant Secretary


President/Vice President