

MELBOURNE-TILLMAN WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

MINUTES

August 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular scheduled meeting of the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District (MTWCD) Board of Directors was called to order by Phil Weinberg, President on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the City of West Melbourne Council Chambers, Veterans Memorial Complex, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne, Florida.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL

The following Board Members were present:

Joe Hale, Vice President
Brant Hoffman
Scott Morgan
Don Jordan
Drew Powshok
Jay Woltering
Phil Weinberg, President

Also present: Rick Nipper, District Manager
Lisa Blackett, Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Beadle, District Attorney

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/VISITORS/STAFF

Mike McCabe, District Engineer
Bo Rainbolt, Assistant Manager of Operations
Andrea Young, Mayor, City of West Melbourne
Jeff Hawes, Corcoran Group
Matt Toller, Corcoran Group
Sarah Kraum, Space Coast TPO
Travis Hills, Kittleson and Associates, representing Space Coast TPO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The District Manager announced the Brevard County Commission approved the District's 2025/2026 User Fee rates on August 14, 2025 with no increase as the past two years. The approved user fee rate is: \$25.00 for residential, \$8.50 for agricultural, and \$52.50 for Commercial classifications.

The Manager announced the District's 2025/2026 Budget would be presented to the Brevard County Commission for approval at their public hearing on September 10, 2025.

The Manager announced the District's annual inventory count is scheduled for October and he a Board member to conduct the inventory with District staff. Scott Morgan volunteered to conduct the inventory on behalf of the Board.

The Manager announced the terms of Board members Joe Hale-City of Palm Bay, Brant Hoffman, Drew Powshok and Jay Woltering-Brevard County appointee's terms would expire on September 30, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS

The President presented the minutes of the June 24, 2025 Board meeting for approval. **Drew Powshok motioned to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2025 Board meeting.** Jay Woltering **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

PRESENTATIONS

Travis Hills of Kittleson and Associates, representing Southern Brevard Trails, delivered a slide presentation outlining the vision, goals, existing conditions and Master Plan recommendations for trail development within the District. He stated the initiative aims to enhance the quality of life, promote public health, and generate economic benefits for southern Brevard County. Mr. Hills revealed the primary study area spans from Palm Bay Road south to the Indian River County line, and from the St. Johns River east to US-1. While construction is projected 10-15 years out, Mr. Hills emphasized the current phase focuses on coordination with local jurisdictions to prevent duplication, agency engagement, feasibility studies, support from the Space Coast Transportation Planning Agency and pursuit of diverse funding sources. Mr. Hills noted that southern Brevard County currently has over 300 miles of existing or previously planned trails and sidewalks with the Master Plan to recommend the addition of 140 miles of new trails, targeting a total network of more than 460 miles. In response to a question from Joe Hale regarding the use of the District's rights-of-way noting the industrial nature and the presence of heavy equipment necessary for District operations, Mr. Hills affirmed such concerns would be addressed during the feasibility study in collaboration with District staff.

Jeff Hawes of the Corcoran Group briefed the Board on the status of proposed legislation to update the District's user fee structure. He reported that the Brevard County Commissioners from Districts 3 and 5 expressed receptiveness to supporting the bill, which would authorize modest fee increases indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to help the District maintain pace with inflation. Mr. Hawes announced the local legislative delegation meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2025 and indicated that sponsorship of the District's legislation was likely. He cautioned the upcoming legislative session will involve broad taxation debates but emphasized that once the bill was filed, coordinated efforts would be made to engage the Governor's office to pursue a favorable outcome.

REGULAR BUSINESS

The President presented the Operating Statement through July 31, 2025 for Board approval. Scott Morgan **motioned to approve the Operating Statement through July 31, 2025.** Joe Hale **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

NEW BUSINESS

The District Manager read District resolution 2025-1 to provide for the authority to levy the District's User Fees for fiscal year 2025/2026 providing an effective date. Drew Powshok **motioned to approve Resolution 2025-01.** Don Jordan **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

The Manager read District Resolution 2025-02, an appropriation and levy resolution of the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District, Brevard County, Florida, covering the Fiscal year 2025/2026 appropriating funds required for the general operating expenses of the District; all necessary and proper disbursements, and other expenditures necessary or proper for the operation of the District and the purpose of capital outlays during said fiscal year; providing for the adoption of the Budget for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026; providing for an effective date. Drew Powshok **motioned to approve Resolution 2025-02.** Joe Hale **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve Resolution 2025-02.**

BUDGET

The Manager requested for approval to transfer of \$7,000 from account #5640300, Computer Software to account #5540000, Books, Publications, Subscriptions and Memberships to reclassify software-based subscription expenditures from capital-based account to an operating expense account, in accordance with current accounting standards and audit guidelines. Drew Powshok **motioned to approve the request for transfer of \$7,000 from 5640300, Computer Software to 5540000, Books, Publications, Subscriptions and Memberships.** Joe Hale **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

The Manager requested for approval a transfer of \$10,000 from account #545000, Insurance and \$10,000 from account #5520010, Fuel, Gas and Oil to account #5520100, Aquatics for the purchase of aquatic herbicide, as the Aquatics group is projected to face a shortfall in materials due to the reduced budgeted allowances and a strategic

initiative to limit aquatic chemical use. The increase would be offset by lower-than-expected fuel costs (#5520010) and reduced District insurance premiums (#545000). Drew Powshok **motioned to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from account 5450000 and \$10,000 from account 5520010, Fuel, Gas and Oil to account 5520100, Aquatics.** Joe Hale **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

The Manager requested approval for the 2025/2026 budget of a transfer of \$2,000 from account #5640300, Computer Software to account #5540000, Books, Publications, Subscriptions and memberships to reclassify software-based expenditures from a capital account to an operating expense account, in accordance with current accounting standards and audit guidelines. Drew Powshok **motioned to approve the transfer of \$2,000 from account #5640300, Computer Software, to account #5540000, Books, Publications, Subscriptions and Memberships to reclassify software-based expenditures.** Joe Hale **seconded the motion.** The Board **voted 7-0 to approve the motion.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager reported the State Attorney's office contacted him regarding the criminal vandalism at Site I. He advised the defendant and the state were in discussion for a plea deal where the first time offender would be given probation and pay the District \$100 a month restitution as part of his plea agreement in lieu of a potential one year in jail sentence. The Manager advised the State Attorney's office the District would agree.

The Manager stated that in 1945, the District gave the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) the right of way on the C-7 Canal to use as a road with the stipulation that if FDOT did not use it as a road, the property would revert back to the District. However, FDOT sold the property to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Staff confirms the District would like to have the property to maintain the C-7 canal and would like to discuss with SJRWMD for the return of the property to the District.

The Manager reported he has had discussions with SJRWMD regarding the installation of telemetry to control the gates of the MS-1 structure remotely and monitor levels via an app. Jay Woltering asked if the telemetry would be automatic and the Manager stated SJRWMD still wanted the District to control the MS-1 so the gates can be changed remotely. He added he would like to re-negotiate the terms of the permit with SJRWMD to keep the District in compliance but have more control of the operations. Scott Morgan agreed with the Manager that the District should have control of the gates during high water incidents.

The Manager reported the pontoons on the harvester are blown and the cost to repair or replace is too great to be worth the investment. He added the Assistant Manager/Operations has contacted the company that built the harvester to find out its worth in its current state to list on GovDeals for sale. The Manager added he would like to obtain an appropriation or grant to purchase a more conventional type harvester for the District.

Board member Drew Powshok informed the Board that an active road exists on the east side of the C-7 property, providing gated access to Platt Ranch and adjacent land which he owns. He emphasized that continued access via this road is essential for both properties. Board member Joe Hale inquired whether the road was accessible to the public. Mr. Powshok clarified the road currently serves as the sole access point for the two properties. Mr. Hale noted the road is blocked south of the Platt Ranch by a gate, indicating it functions as private access rather than a public roadway. Mr. Powshok responded that while the road is used for access, the property owners do not hold title to the land as private access. The District Manager recommended that should the property revert to District ownership, a dedicated workshop be scheduled to further examine access rights and operational considerations.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The District Engineer did not have anything to report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER/OPERATIONS REPORT

The Assistant Manager/Operations reported he consulted with the Henning Group, the original builder of the harvester, regarding potential auction value. Joe from the Henning Group estimated the harvester could yield between \$75,000 and \$100,000 at auction.

Operationally, District staff continue to dip aquatic vegetation from the tough boons, remove trees from the slopes of C-60, extract muck and restore areas of bank slippage. Canal bank restoration was also required due to damage caused by a vehicle accident. He reported mowing operations were underway on C-1, east of Minton Road and the aquatics team continued with routine operations.

The Assistant Manager/Operations reported the widespread growth of Cogan grass throughout the District has increased the average mowing cycle from 5 to 6 months. He added the dense nature of the grass contributes to accelerated wear on equipment and the back-up mower has been unreliable.

Board member Jay Woltering asked how efficient using the long reach in removing weeds from the tough booms is, the Assistant Manager/Operations explained the long reach utilized an aquatic bucket, supported by the airboat that pushes vegetation toward the equipment. He noted that compared to the harvester, the long reach is more efficient due to the harvester's frequent offloading requirements.

Board President Phil Weinberg asked if Joe from Henning Group was aware of the harvester's condition. The Assistant Manager/Operations confirmed Joe had seen the harvester approximately 3 months ago. The District Manager added full disclosure would be provided when listed for sale.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the audit for the FY 2024/2025 will begin September 23, 2025 with a kickoff meeting. She also reported she had a meeting with the FEMA contractors who have been reviewing the District's PA Grant and they have approved a partial reimbursement of \$80,450 which leaves approximately \$140,000 remaining on the equipment and about \$50,000 on the administrative costs.

CLOSING

The President stated that the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the City of West Melbourne Council Chambers, Veterans Memorial Complex, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne, Florida.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Joe Hale – none

Brant Hoffman – none

Scott Morgan – Thanked Rick for the District tour with Representative Monique Millerand as he was able to better understand the financial condition of the District.

Don Jordan – none

Drew Powshok – none

Jay Woltering – none

Phil Weinberg – Reminded the Board that Joe, Brent, Drew and Jay terms are about to expire. He thanked Jeff with the Corcoran Group for meeting with State Legislators and County Commissioners in support of the legislation.

ADJOURN

Phil Weinberg, President adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully,

Lisa Blackett
Secretary
Board of Directors