

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
ENGLEWOOD WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
201 SELMA AVENUE, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223  
May 14, 2026 @ 8:30 A.M.**

**Board of Supervisors:**

Taylor Meals, Chair  
Tony Babington, Vice-Chair  
Robert C. Stern, Jr.  
Sydney B. Crampton  
Lani Gaver

**Staff:**

Keith R. Ledford, Jr., P.E., Administrator  
Robert H. Berntsson, District Counsel  
Dewey Futch, Water Operations Manager  
Lisa Hawkins, Finance Director  
Ashley Aguiar, Executive Assistant

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Additions or Deletions

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

- **Jingjie Cai - 850 E 7th St., Englewood, FL 34223** – Mr. Ray Cai spoke on his behalf, addressed the Board regarding elevated water usage and a high utility balance. Multiple inspections over several months did not identify a confirmed source of the increased usage, though a prior adjustment had been granted. A later review identified a meter-related issue, and the meter was subsequently replaced, after which usage returned to typical levels. The Board declined an additional adjustment in accordance with existing policy. Mr. Cai thanked the Board and indicated he would coordinate with staff regarding payment arrangements.
- **Terry Jacobson – 265 N. Oxford Dr., Englewood, FL 34223** - Mr. Jacobson from SOS Septic proposed a partnership with EWD; however, Mr. Ledford noted that further discussion would be needed at a later time, as this was not the appropriate setting for such matters.
- **Robert & Laura Tenteromano – 42 Windsor Dr., Englewood, FL 34223** - Ms. Tenteromano requested removal of a water violation citation issued while testing a newly installed pump. Stated receipts for the pump and photos of a “dead lawn” as supporting evidence could be provided and that no unauthorized irrigation occurred outside the permitted maintenance window. The board briefly discussed and agreed to rescind the water violation.

Mr. Babington moved “to rescind the water violation” seconded by Ms. Crampton

**UNANIMOUS**

**26-05-14 A**

*Full motion read: “To rescind the water violation”.*

- **Louis Fagas – 2570 Alamander Ave., Englewood, FL 34223** – Mr. Fagas via email requested an adjustment to a bill attributed to a leaking toilet. Although the usage did not meet the policy threshold for eligibility, the Board discussed the

request and considered a one-time exception based on the customer's long-standing account history with no prior adjustments since 2012.

Mr. Babington moved "to offer the customer an adjustment or a payment plan, with the explicit understanding that it constitutes their one allowed adjustment for the next 24 months" seconded by Ms. Crampton.

**UNANIMOUS**

**26-05-14 B**

*Full motion read:* "To offer the customer an adjustment or a payment plan, with the explicit understanding that it constitutes their one allowed adjustment for the next 24 months".

4. **PRESENTATIONS** - Certificate of Appreciation
  - Nathan Souza –Distribution Maintenance Technician - 10 years
  - Robert Bryant – Collections Maintenance Technician - 5 years
  - Brennon Miller – Distribution Maintenance Technician - 5 years
5. **CONSENT SECTION** Chair Meals called for a motion to approve. Ms. Gaver moved "to approve the consent section as presented," seconded by Mr. Stern.
  - 5a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated April 9, 2026  
**Recommended Action:** Approve the meeting minutes for April 9, 2026
  - 5b. Big W Law Invoice dated May 5, 2026  
**Recommended Action:** Approve the attorney's invoice in the amount of \$2,850.00
  - 5c. Oertel, Fernandez, Bryant & Atkinson Invoice dated April 30, 2026  
**Recommended Action:** Approve the attorney's invoice in the amount of \$18,032.60.
  - 5d. Henderson Franklin Invoice dated April 8, 2026  
**Recommended Action:** Approve the attorney's invoices in the amount of \$561.00.

**UNANIMOUS**

**CS 26-05-14 A-D**

6. **DISCUSSION**
  - 6a. Mid-Year Budget Review – Ms. Hawkins led the discussion. The year-end forecast remains positive overall. Operating revenues are projected to exceed budget due primarily to development-related service charges and FEMA reimbursement revenue, while operating expenses are expected to remain below budget because of personnel vacancies, lower utility cost increases, and savings in repairs and maintenance. The largest variance from the original budget is in capital improvement spending. Although several major projects are underway, only portions of issued purchase orders are expected to be spent this fiscal year, resulting in a significantly higher projected year-end reserve balance. Recognition is also due to Amanda for coordinating with department heads, developing the analysis and assumptions, and preparing the final forecast.

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

**7a. Brenntag – Liquid Chlorine – Extension Agreement** – Mr. Ledford led the discussion. This item requests approval of the Second Amendment to extend the liquid chlorine supply contract with Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. through June 30, 2027, at the current fixed price of \$1,854 per ton delivered. Brenntag remains the only competitive supplier available in the District’s service area, and market research confirmed that alternative pricing is significantly higher. Because liquid chlorine is essential to potable water and wastewater treatment operations, approval of a waiver of competition and execution of the amendment is recommended to ensure uninterrupted service.

Mr. Stern moved, “to approve as presented” seconded by Ms. Gaver.

**UNANIMOUS**

**26-05-14 C**

*Full motion read:* “To approve the Second Amendment to RFB 2022-131 with Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., extending the liquid chlorine contract through June 30, 2027.”

**7b. V-7 Generator Replacement** – Mr. Ledford led the discussion. The generator currently installed at Vacuum Station V-7 was installed in 2004 and is due for replacement. Staff recommends purchasing a new 200kW Blue Star Generator, Model JD 200-01, from Mid Florida Diesel through Florida Sheriffs Association Bid FSA 23-EQU.21.1, which expires September 30, 2026. The proposal includes installation, startup, freight, and optional upgrades, including increasing the fuel tank capacity from 24 to 48 hours. Estimated delivery is 25–30 weeks.

Ms. Gaver moved, “to approve as presented” seconded by Ms. Crampton.

**UNANIMOUS**

**26-05-14 D**

*Full motion read:* “To authorize the purchase of a 200kW Blue Star Generator, Model JD 200-01 from Mid Florida Diesel for the amount of \$96,071.00, piggybacking Florida Sheriffs Association Bid FSA 23-EQU.21.1, expiring September 30, 2026. Funds to come from the FY26 CIP.”

**7c. Englewood Isles/Alameda Isles I&I** – Mr. Ledford led the discussion. Staff is requesting approval to rename the LS124 – Deer Creek I&I Project to the Englewood Isles/Alameda Isles I&I Project and transfer \$150,000 from its FY26 CIP budget to the Englewood Isles FM Replacement project due to increased project needs and recurring force main breaks causing SSOs. Staff also requests approval of a \$47,448.01 USSI quote for smoke testing and manhole inspections in the Englewood Isles and Alameda Isles collection systems, with remaining funds to be used for identified repairs.

Mr. Stern moved, “to approve as presented” seconded by Mr. Babington.

**UNANIMOUS**

**26-05-14 E**

*Full motion read:* “1. Approve the renaming of the LS124 – Deer Creek I&I project to Englewood Isles/Alameda Isles I&I. 2. Approve a budget transfer in the amount of

## **Collections**

- Valve and pit maintenance completed in V2 area.
- Approximately 1,000 ft of force main jetting completed in Quails Run to relieve system pressure at the station.
- Installation of a 12-inch isolation valve completed at Old Englewood Road and North Indiana.
- Lift Station 154 in Esplanade placed into service following startup and walkthrough.
- Three residential properties capped for demolition.
- Seven vent repairs completed.
- One broken pit replaced in V-4.
- Total work orders completed: 77.

## **8b. CIP/DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Keith R. Ledford Jr., P.E.**

- Englewood Isles FM Replacement – Coordination with GWE continues on permit drawings for the force main replacement. Staff is also evaluating a potential easement with Eden Harbor to relocate the main away from residential properties. Project anticipated to be completed in multiple phases.
- Hurricane Milton LS Repairs – GWE has submitted preliminary electrical design plans for lift station panel repairs. A design review meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2026.
- Lime Plant Optimization Study – HDR has completed the Lime Plant Optimization Study and identified performance deficiencies. Six recommendations were provided to improve reliability and reduce operating costs; staff is evaluating implementation and timing.
- Esplanade at Wellen Park – Contractor has scheduled a temporary shutdown of the EWD force main on River Road for system connections on April 8, 2026. Final testing and certification of onsite and offsite utilities continue, with anticipated certification within 30–60 days.

## **8c. FINANCE REPORT – Lisa Hawkins**

**Financial Statements** - Operating revenues through April totaled \$16.0 million, representing an increase of approximately \$2.7 million compared to the same period in the prior year. Operating expenses totaled \$11.5 million, an increase of approximately \$1.2 million over the prior year. As a result, the District reported an operating gain of \$4.6 million through April.

**Investment Statements** - As of April 30, approximately \$32 million was invested through RBC and \$3.7 million was held at Centennial Bank, resulting in total cash and investments of \$35.7 million. During the month, \$3 million was transferred from the Centennial operating account to RBC for investment in CDs and government-backed securities.

9. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT** –Robert H. Berntsson – Aside from the ongoing litigation, business continues as usual.

10. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

11. **NEW BUSINESS** - Call for candidates for Board Seats 4 and 5 will be open from noon June 8 through noon June 12. The notice will be published in the newspaper and posted at multiple public locations.
12. **PUBLIC COMMENT – ANY TOPIC**
13. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Mr. Stern expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work, particularly those who have been working late. Ms. Crampton and Mr. Babington concurred. Mr. Babington also emphasized the importance of continuing to remind individuals about water restrictions. Ms. Gaver agreed with the comments and commended the team for a job well done on the mid-year review. Chair Meals also expressed gratitude for everyone's efforts and contributions.
14. **ADJOURN @ 9:50am** - None



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Tony Babington Vice Chair

APPROVED/aa