

Bermont Drainage District

Regular Board Meeting

May 21, 2025

January 21, 2025, the Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the Paradise Park Meeting Room at 46900 Bermont Rd. Punta Gorda, FL 33982, The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Austin Bessette was administered his oath of office.

It was determined that attendance of the following supervisors constituted a quorum, and it was in order to proceed with the meeting

Linda McHugh	Present
Austin Bessette	Present
Marie Thomlinson	Absent

Also present was Seth Behn, General Counsel from Lewis, Longman & Walker "LLW"

The original meeting date of July 24th had to be rescheduled as the deadline to submit FYE 9-30-2026 Ad Valorem rate to Charlotte County is July 10th. Further, we had some immediate ditch maintenance needs that needed to be addressed.

The notice of the May 21, 2025, Meeting had been published in the Daily Sun on Monday May 12, 2025. See attached. The meeting was also posted on the district website: Bermontdd.org Landowners who had provided emails were also notified via email. The following landowners attended the meeting: Kevin Ostrander, Ariel Morales, AJ Anthony, Eileen Leary-Fussleman for Paradise Park, Patrick Osahn (via phone in) for Lady Moon Farms.

The meeting began with a discussion of Ditch Maintenance needs through September 30, 2026, so that we could determine the Ad Valorem rate required to support our budget needs.

The Supervisors listened to landowners attending the meeting regarding maintenance related to ditches and culverts that were not flowing properly. Ariel Morales, provided a map of areas with reduced flow. The general consensus was that these were the primary areas and that we could do this work for an estimated \$10,000 that we would have available if we make no change to the Ad Valorem tax rate. To accomplish this work at this cost, the following individuals volunteered to provide their services: Kevin Ostrander, Ariel Morales, AJ Anthony and Patrick Osahn.

Discussion then ensued on how to approve these maintenance costs. With the advice from our attorney, Seth Behn of LLW, the Supervisors determined that Kevin Ostrander and Ariel Morales will consult with Supervisor Austin Bessette regarding suggested repairs and costs. Austin will approve costs and Linda McHugh as Treasurer will provide payment.

Next the board listened to landowners about whether we should proceed with hiring an Engineer at an estimated costs of \$10,000 to provide further input regarding recommendations for future maintenance. The general consensus was to postpone this for one year, until after we have paid the remaining \$20,000 due to our attorneys LLW for the renewal of our district. Mr. Behn indicated that the District could make its final payment to LLW once it has received sufficient revenue from the tax collector at the end of the year, or early next year if necessary.

A motion was made by Austin Bessette to keep the current ad valorem rate of \$10 per acre and \$4.50 per parcel for Paradise Park and approve the proposed budget based on the rate and prior comments. Linda McHugh seconded the motion. Please see attached final budget for FYE 09-30-2026.

Prior and Current Supervisors (Linda McHugh, Austin Bessette, Marie Thomlinson, Michelle Loch) were reminded that they are required to file their Annual Financial Disclosure and Ethics by July 1, 2025

The current Supervisors (Linda McHugh, Austin Bessette & Marie Thomlinson) were reminded that they must complete Ethics training for the current calendar year by December 31, 2025

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, at 6 pm at Paradise Park Meeting Room.

- Annual Landowners Meeting
- Vote for Supervisor position expiring Jan 31, 2026
- Review FYE 09-30-2025 Financial Statements

The Meeting was adjourned May 21, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

Linda McHugh

Treasurer

Bermont Drainage District
Approved Budget
Fiscal Year Ending 09-30-2026

Net Position		September 30,		
		7 Mo actual/ 5 Mo		
		Actual	Fcst	Budget
		2024	2025	2026
Cash - Operating		16,087 \$	12,458	\$ 2,292
Total Assets		\$ 16,087	\$ 12,458	\$ 2,292
Total Liabilities		0	0	0
Net Position, Unrestricted		16,087	12,458	2,292
Total Liabilities & Net Position		\$ 16,087	\$ 12,458	\$ 2,292
Changes in Net Position				
Revenue				
Tax Revenue		6,027	28,343	28,343
Donations Received		0	1,500	
Total Assets		\$ 6,027	\$ 29,843	\$ 28,343
Expenses				
Systems Maintenance & Ops		0	0	10,000
Engineer			0	0
East Charlotte DD		1,554	1,554	1,709
Lobbying Fees			20,000	20,000
Legal Fees		7,718	10,718	6,000
Management fees				0
Insurance				0
Office Expense		1,021	1,200	800
		10,293	33,472	38,509
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position		\$ (4,266)	\$ (3,629)	\$ (10,166)
Office exp includes: Website costs,, DEO and county collection fees				
Total Acres		2,693	2,693	2,693
Tax per Acre \$		2.20 \$	10.00	\$ 10.00
Total Ad Valorem tax Acres \$		5,925 \$	26,930	\$ 26,930
Total Parcels (136 acres)		314	314	314
Tax per Parcel \$		1.00 \$	4.50	\$ 4.50
Total Ad Valorem tax PP \$		314 \$	1,413	\$ 1,413
Total All Ad Valorem Tax \$		6,239 \$	28,343	\$ 28,343



**PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT OF
PUBLICATION STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY
OF CHARLOTTE:**

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Jill Kelli Di Benedetto, who on oath says that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of The Daily Sun, a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor in Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Notice that was published in said newspaper in the issue(s)

05/12/25

as well as being posted online at www.yoursun.com and www.floridapublicnotices.com.

Affiant further says that the said newspaper is a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor, in said Charlotte County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Charlotte County, Florida, Sarasota County, Florida and DeSoto County, Florida, each day and has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Punta Gorda, in said Charlotte County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

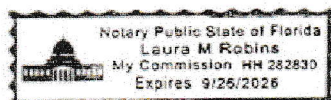
Jill Kelli Di Benedetto

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn and subscribed before me this 12th day of
May, 2025

Laura M Robins

(Signature of Notary Public)



Personally known ☒ OR ☐ Produced Identification

**NOTICE OF THE MAY 21,
2025 MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
BERMONT DRAINAGE
DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the Bermont Drainage District will be holding a Meeting Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Paradise Park Meeting Room, 46900 Bermont Rd, Punta Gorda, Florida 33982.

The Meeting will be for the purpose of:

1. Review and Approval of the FY 2026 (Oct 25 to Sept 26) Annual Budget
2. Determine short and long-term ditch maintenance needs.
3. Receiving annual reports and taking such action with respect thereto as the landowners may determine.
4. Transacting any other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the Board of Supervisors Meeting and the Annual Landowners Meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District at (941) 661-2461.

Dated this 8th day of May 2025.
Board of Supervisors
Bermont Drainage District
By: Linda McHugh, Supervisor
Bermont Drainage District
Publish: 05/12/25
329683 3960073

Bermont Drainage District

May 21, 2025 Board Meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Boad Lewis	10	"on file"	
AJ Anthony	10	5707893403	
Kevin Ostrander	10	"on file"	
Ariel Morales	40	201-421-8500	
Eileen Leary - Fusselman			
for PPCA			
Justin Gross	50	235-878-2109	
Patrick Osch			called in