CAPTIVA EROSION PREVENTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026

Meeting	Regular Board Meeting
Date/Time	June 8, 2026; called to order at approximately 1:04 p.m. based on the meeting recording timestamp
Recording Length	Approximately 1 hour, 51 minutes
Location/Format	Meeting held with Commissioner McGowan participating remotely by Board approval

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- Chairman Bob Walter called the meeting to order. The meeting was recorded.
- The Board approved Commissioner Tim McGowan's remote participation.
- Roll call reflected Chairman Bob Walter, Vice Chairman Tim McGowan (remote), Commissioner John "Bernie" Dupre, and Commissioner Rene Miville present. Commissioner John Wade was absent.
- Also participating or referenced during the meeting were General Manager Brighton Heard, Office Manager Lisa Batchelor, Counsel David Jackson, Nick Matthews and Stephen Marante of The Southern Group, Evan Cutler, Jeff Brown, and District staff/consultants as applicable.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- The Board considered the minutes from the May 11, 2026 meeting.
- Motion to approve the May 11, 2026 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the members present.

3. Agenda Changes

- The Board agreed to move Nick Matthews' legislative update earlier in the agenda to accommodate his schedule.

4. Chair and Treasurer Updates

- The Chair stated that any updates would be addressed later in the meeting.
- The Treasurer reported that one note had recently been rolled into a six-month note consistent with advisor recommendations.

5. Legislative and Government Affairs Update

- Nick Matthews reported that $250,000 for invasive species-related work was included in the final General Appropriations Act and was pending gubernatorial action.
- Mr. Matthews discussed the potential property tax reduction referendum that will go before voters in November and recommended that the District better understand any possible ad valorem impacts. He noted that the District's assessment authority appeared unchanged based on his understanding.
- Mr. Matthews recommended using congressional assistance to obtain and clarify U.S. Army Corps of Engineers records and to determine whether CEPD is being treated appropriately under recent federal legislation and historical project documents.

- Mr. Matthews introduced Stephen Marante of The Southern Group. Mr. Marante summarized his prior experience with the Governor's administration, the Office of Insurance Regulation, and the Department of Commerce, including special district-related work.
- Counsel David Jackson advised that he could provide general training or a refresher for the Board on public advocacy, communications, and related "do's and don'ts."

6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Funding and Historical Documentation

- The Board discussed historical federal participation in Captiva beach projects, including the need to locate and review original contracts, financial participation records, easements, surveys, and public access documentation related to the 1987/1988 and 1995 projects.
- The discussion included whether CEPD may have a basis to seek reimbursement or future federal participation based on historical cost-share arrangements, public access conditions, easements, and recent federal legislation.
- The General Manager reported that recent discussions with the Corps indicated that reimbursement for the most recent project was unlikely and that the existing authorized-but-unfunded federal project may affect FEMA eligibility following future storms.
- Motion: Authorize Nick Matthews to pursue the USACE/federal funding and documentation issue through the political process, including congressional and potential Washington, D.C. engagement as needed, and authorize Counsel David Jackson to pursue the original contract and related documents from a legal/counsel perspective. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.
- Follow-up direction: Evan Cutler was asked to provide the access, parking, and easement information to Nick Matthews and David Jackson. The Board also discussed potential additional resources, including former DEP experience and specialized counsel, if needed.

7. General Manager / Administrative Updates

7.1 State Funding and Grant Timing

- The General Manager thanked the lobbying team for assistance with newly identified state funding opportunities, including funding related to invasive species and dune/native vegetation needs.
- Mr. Matthews advised that, even after inclusion in the state budget, funds generally cannot be spent for reimbursement purposes until the applicable state agency contract is executed. He cautioned against spending grant-dependent funds before contract execution.

7.2 County Commissioner Outreach

- The General Manager reported that he had met with Lee County Commissioners to communicate CEPD's need for additional financial assistance. The meeting with Commissioner Kevin Ruane was described as particularly productive.
- The Board discussed preparing a written request to the County identifying the problem, proposed solution, and a rational funding formula tied to the type of FEMA or federal support CEPD may have been unable to access.
- Direction: The General Manager was asked to draft a request for County assistance, circulate it to Board members for comments, and coordinate follow-up with Commissioner Ruane and County staff as appropriate.

7.3 IT Services and Administrative Credentials

- The General Manager reported that CEPD had contracted with CMIT Solutions of Fort Myers for IT services. The stated costs were approximately $2,215 for initial onboarding and $445 per month for ongoing service.
- The Board discussed the need to secure all administrative credentials, including Microsoft, LastPass, QuickBooks, and other District system credentials, and to avoid future continuity issues.
- Direction: Evan Cutler was asked to provide all login credentials and passwords to the General Manager and Counsel David Jackson within 24 hours, holding back nothing. Counsel was asked to retain credentials pending

further direction. If credentials were not received by Friday, Counsel was asked to prepare a letter from the Board requesting them.

- Direction: Once credentials are received, the District is to coordinate with CMIT to change and secure passwords and ensure appropriate District representatives have current credential access.

7.4 Coastal Vista Draft Plans

- The General Manager reported that draft Coastal Vista plans and opinions of probable cost had been received late the prior Friday and circulated to the Board. The plans generally addressed the area from Alison Hagerup Beach Park south toward the Jensen's curve/Andy Rosse Lane area and associated beach access improvements.
- The Board discussed potential implementation costs, available funding, possible grant offsets, and whether portions of the work could proceed before all outside funding is finalized.
- Direction: Board members were asked to review the Coastal Vista materials and provide comments to the General Manager. A funding spreadsheet/analysis was discussed to identify available dollars, potential reimbursements, and priorities.

7.5 Australian Pine Removal and Iguana Control

- The General Manager reported that the current Australian pine removal and iguana control grant/program was nearing its end and that residents had approximately 20 days remaining to request Australian pine removal under the program.
- The Board discussed the ongoing cost of iguana control, described as approximately $16,000 per month, and whether CEPD should continue funding the service after grant reimbursement ends.
- The Board expressed general support for pausing District-funded iguana control after grant funds end unless additional grant funding or outside support becomes available. The General Manager reported that he had contacted FWC regarding future grant availability and that other potential partners may be asked about funding options.

7.6 General Manager Resignation and Transition

- The General Manager announced that he had received and accepted an employment opportunity in Louisiana and provided two weeks' notice to the District. He indicated he would work to transition matters to the Board and staff before departure.
- Board members thanked the General Manager for his work and discussed whether additional transition time may be possible. The General Manager agreed to discuss timing flexibility with his future employer.

8. New Business

8.1 Resolution 2026-1 - APTIM Local Government Funding Request

- The Board considered Resolution 2026-1 approving the agreement with APTIM Coastal Planning and Engineering, LLC for the Local Government Funding Request package.
- Motion to approve Resolution 2026-1. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.
- The resolution authorizes and approves the APTIM agreement for the Local Government Funding Request and becomes effective upon adoption.

8.2 Transition Materials and Operating Procedures

- The Board discussed the need for a task list, compliance calendar, operating procedures, and transition materials for District administration following the General Manager's resignation.
- Evan Cutler stated that he had copies of prior operating procedure materials and was asked to send those materials to the Board and staff.
- The Board discussed ensuring that invoice approval, check signing, ACH authority, website administration, newsletters, and other recurring duties are assigned during the transition period.

8.3 Final Apportionment and GMS Engagement

- The General Manager reported that CEPD had engaged GMS to assist with completion of the final apportionment, and that GMS had met with District representatives and was working to understand the methodology and resolve outstanding questions.
- The Board discussed the need for a draft apportionment for the July meeting and resident communication regarding estimated assessment ranges, potentially by August 1, subject to the statutory and County calendar.
- Motion: Authorize/confirm GMS to handle the apportionment work in replacement of Dr. Strong from an accounting/economic analysis perspective. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the members present.

9. Public Comment

- No public comment was recorded during this portion of the meeting.

10. Commissioner Comments and Counsel Guidance

- Commissioner McGowan asked Counsel for guidance on whether commissioners may email all other commissioners. Counsel advised that communications involving Board business can create Sunshine Law concerns, particularly if they invite responses or discussion. Counsel recommended routing informational items through the administrator for distribution and reserving Board discussion and decision-making for public meetings.
- The Board discussed the process for filling the General Manager vacancy. Counsel advised that if more than one commissioner participates in discussion or deliberation, the process must occur in a public meeting. Individual interviews may occur separately, but Board discussion and decisions must occur publicly.
- Commissioner Dupre raised a proposed motion concerning potential censure of Commissioner Wade related to the return of District credentials, communications/open meeting procedures, and interactions with administrative staff. Commissioner McGowan seconded for discussion. Counsel advised that Commissioner Wade should receive notice and an opportunity to respond before formal action. The motion was withdrawn for consideration at a future meeting.

11. Action Items / Follow-Up

Responsible Party	Action
Nick Matthews	Lead political/congressional outreach regarding USACE documentation, historical federal participation, and potential federal funding path; report back to the Board.
David Jackson	Pursue the original Corps contracts and related historical documentation from a counsel/legal perspective; prepare credential-demand letter if District credentials are not provided by Friday.
Evan Cutler	Send access, parking, easement, FOIA, and historical documentation materials to Nick Matthews and David Jackson; provide prior operating procedure materials; provide all District credentials/passwords as directed.
General Manager	Provide documents to ease transition. Dates, tasks, etc.
Board Members	Review Coastal Vista plans and submit comments to the General Manager.
District Staff / CMIT	Secure and update District credentials after transfer; establish appropriate credential custody and continuity process.
GMS / District Staff	Prepare draft final apportionment materials for Board review, target July meeting if feasible, and develop public communication regarding estimated ranges.

12. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:39 p.m. based on the transcript timestamp.