

Connerton East Community Development District

Board of Supervisors' Meeting

November 11, 2025

District Office: 5844 Old Pasco Road Suite 100 Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 813.533.2950

Connertoneastcdd.org

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Residence Inn by Marriott Tampa located at 2101 Northpointe Parkway, Lutz, FL 33588 www.connertoneastcdd.org

District Board of Supervisors

Kelly Evans Chair Lori Campagna Vice Chair

Bradley Gilley Assistant Secretary
Jacob Walsh Assistant Secretary
Vacant Assistant Secretary

District Manager Scott Brizendine Rizzetta & Company, Inc.

District Counsel John Vericker Straley, Robin & Vericker

District Engineer Brian Surak Clearview Land Design

All Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off while in the meeting room.

The Audience Comment portion of the agenda is where individuals may make comments on matters that concern the District. Individuals are limited to a total of three (3) minutes to make comments during this time.

Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at (813) 933-5571. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), who can aid you in contacting the District Office.

A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

<u>District Office – Wesley Chapel, Florida (813) 994-1001</u> Mailing Address - 3434 Colwell Avenue Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33614 Connertoneastcdd.org

November 3, 2025

Board of Supervisors Connerton East Community Development District

AGENDA

Dear Board Members:

The regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Connerton East Community Development District will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway 2155 Northpointe Parkway Lutz, FL 33558. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

BOS	MEETI	NG:					
1.	CALL	TO ORDER					
2.	AUDI	AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS					
3.	BUSI	NESS ADMINISTRATION					
	A.	Consideration of Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting					
		Minutes for October 14, 2025	Tab 1				
	B.	Ratification of Operation & Maintenance					
		Expenditures for September 2025	Tab 2				
4.	BUSI	NESS ITEMS					
	A.	Consideration of Arbitrage Engagement Letter	Tab 3				
	B.	Appointment of Open Board Seat 5 (2021-2026)					
5.	STAF	F REPORTS					
	A.	District Counsel					
	B.	District Engineer					
	C.	Aquatic Report	Tab 4				
	D.	Field Inspection Services Report (under separate cover)					
		i. Contractor Response to Field Inspection Report					
		(under separate cover)					
	E.	District Manager	Tab 5				
		i. Presentation of Website Compliance Report	Tab 6				

6. SUPERVISOR REQUESTS **ADJOURNMENT** 7.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (813) 994-1001.

Sincerely,

Scott Brizendine
Scott Brizendine
District Manager

Tab 1

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meeting. SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

MINUTES OF MEETING

Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Connerton East Community Development District was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 9:02 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway 2155 Northpointe Lutz, FL 33588.

Present and constituting a quorum:

Kelly Evans

Lori Campagna

Board of Supervisor,	Chairman
Board Supervisor, Vi	ce-Chair

Bradley Gilley Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary Jake Walsh **Board Supervisor, Assistant Secretary**

Also present were:

Scott Brizendine	District Manager, Rizzetta & Company, Inc.
Angela Savinon	District Manager, Rizzetta & Company, Inc.
Kathryn Hopkinson	District Counsel, Straley, Robin Vericker
John Vericker	District Counsel, Straley, Robin Vericker
Brian Surak	District Engineer, Clearview Land Design

(via phone)

Samantha Reese Financial Analyst, Rizzetta & Company, Inc.

(via phone)

Stephen Sanford **Bond Counsel, Greenburg Traurig** (via phone) John Toborg

FIS, Rizzetta & Company, Inc.

Audience Present

Call to Order

Mr. Brizendine called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. confirming a guorum for the

Audience Comments on Agenda Items

Audience member addressed the Board regarding Gallantree parking, concerned about emergency vehicles, drivers cutting through from Connerton Boulevard to Pleasant Plains Parkway and would like speedbumps on Gallantree.

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT October 14, 2025 - Minutes of Meeting Page 2

49 Audience member addressed the Board requesting speed trailer and notify the HOA 50 and the school district. 51 52 Audience member addressed the Board regarding road curbing isn't sloped properly 53 54 and it doesn't allow the water to drain. The District Engineer will investigate and report back to the Board. 55 56 THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS Consideration of Regular Board of 57 58 Supervisors Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2025 59 60 On a Motion by Mr. Gilley, seconded by Ms. Evans, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors approved minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting on September 9, 2025, as presented, for the Connerton East Community Development District. 61 **FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS** Ratification of **Operation** & 62 **Maintenance Expenditures for August** 63 2025 64 65 On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Campagna, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors ratified the operation and maintenance expenditures for August 2025 (\$96,563.89), for the Connerton East Community Development District. 66 67 FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS Acceptance of Sean Finotti Resignation 68 69 On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Mr. Walsh, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors accepted the resignation of Sean Finotti effective September 12, 2025, for Connerton East Community Development District. 70 SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS New **Board** 71 Appointment of **Supervisor Seat 5 (2021-2026)** 72 73 74 This item was tabled until November 11, 2025 CDD meeting. 75 SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS 76 Public Hearing on Levying & Imposing 77 **Special Assessments** 78 On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Mr. Walsh, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors opened the Public Hearing, for Connerton East Community Development

No public comments.

District.

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CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT October 14, 2025 - Minutes of Meeting Page 3

On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Campagna, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors closed the Public Hearing, for Connerton East Community Development District.

83 84

i. Consideration of Resolution 2026-01; Levying & Imposing Special Assessments

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Ms. Hopkinson reviewed Resolution 2026-01; Levying & Imposing Special Assessments with the Board.

88 89

On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Campagna, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 2026-01; Levying & Imposing Special Assessments, for Connerton East Community Development District.

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EIGHTH ORDER OF BSUINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2026-02; Bond Delegation

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Mr. Sanford presented Resolution 2026-02 Bond Delegation to the Board.

94 95

On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Mr. Gilley, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 2026-02; Bond Delegation, for the Connerton East Community Development District.

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NINTH ORDER OF BSUINESS

Discussion of Investment Options

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Mr. Brizendine stated the General Fund currently has an investment account with Valley Bank. The interest rate was 4% when opened, now at 3.75% following the Federal Reserve's rate cut. Management reached out to other banks and Valley still has the highest rate.

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TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Steadfast Addendum for Phase 3-2B&C Pond Bank Mowing

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Addendum for ponds in Phases 3-2B&C for \$10,500/year bringing the total contract to \$650,505.00.

109 110

On a Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Campagna, with all in favor, the Board of Supervisors approved Steadfast Addendum for Phase 3-2B&C, for the Connerton East Community Development District.

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ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS

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A. District Counsel

Ms. Hopkinson stated today's resolutions were the final step for bonds to move

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT October 14, 2025 - Minutes of Meeting Page 4

	forward.	
В.		I 7 are getting close to being certified and will and 4-4 and 4-5 construction is still ongoing.
C.	Aquatic Report The Board reviewed the report. There	were no comments on the report.
D.	Field Inspection Services Mr. Toborg reviewed his report with th map.	e Board. Mr. Surak will produce a maintenance
E.		g will be on November 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. coast Parkway 2155 Northpointe Parkway Lutz,
TWE	FTH ORDER OF BUSINESS	Supervisor Requests
	There were no supervisor requests.	
THIR	TEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS	Adjournment
	motion from Ms. Evans, seconded by 30 a.m. for the Connerton East Comn	Mr. Walsh, the Board adjourned the meeting nunity Development District.
Assis	tant Secretary/Secretary	Chairman / Vice-Chairman

Tab 2

CONNERTON EAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

<u>District Office · Wesley Chapel, Florida · (904) 436-6270</u>

Mailing Address – 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33614

Operation and Maintenance Expenditures September 2025 For Board Approval

Attached please find the check register listing the Operation and Maintenance expenditures paid from September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025. This does not include expenditures previously approved by the Board.

The total items being presented:	\$122,590.80
Approval of Expenditures:	
Chairperson	
Vice Chairperson	
Assistant Secretary	

Connerton East Community Development District

Paid Operation & Maintenance Expenditures September 1, 2025 Through September 30, 2025

Vendor Name	Check #	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	<u>Invoi</u>	ce Amount
Clearview Land Design, P.L.	100538	25-22434	Engineering Services 09/25	\$	505.66
Cooper Pools Inc.	100541	2025-1155	Monthly Commercial Fountain Service 09/25	\$	250.00
Egis Insurance Advisors, LLC	100540	29449	Policy #100125839 10/01/2025- 10/01/2026	\$	33,333.00
Gig Fiber, LLC	100542	5080	Solar Equipment Lease 09/25	\$	2,523.50
Gig Fiber, LLC	100542	5081	Solar Light Lease 09/25	\$	2,729.50
Gig Fiber, LLC	100542	5082	Solar Light Lease 09/25	\$	3,450.50
Gig Fiber, LLC	100542	5083	Solar Equipment Lease 09/25	\$	3,500.00
Gig Fiber, LLC	100542	5084	Solar Equipment Lease 09/25	\$	6,050.00
Jayman Enterprises, LLC	100543	4182	Dog Park Maintenance 09/25	\$	1,200.00
Pasco County Utilities	20250924-1	Utility Summary 08/25	Utility Summary 08/25	\$	929.88
Pinnacle Holdings - XIV, LLC	100535	09/09/25 Meeting	09/09/25 Meeting Rental	\$	203.33
Pinnacle Holdings - XIV, LLC	100537	Rental 091525 Meeting	10/14/25 BOS Meeting 09/25	\$	203.33
Rizzetta & Company, Inc.	100534	Rental INV0000102278	District Management Services 09/25	\$	5,470.00
Sitex Aquatics, LLC	100544	10215-b	Monthly Lake Management 09/25	\$	2,719.00
Steadfast Contractors Alliance, LLC	100545	SA-14827	Landscape Maintenance 09/25	\$	51,667.10

Connerton East Community Development District

Paid Operation & Maintenance Expenditures September 1, 2025 Through September 30, 2025

Vendor Name	Check #	Invoice Number	Invoice Description	<u>Invoi</u>	ce Amount
Steadfast Contractors Alliance, LLC	100545	SA-15176	Irrigation Repair 08/25	\$	417.50
Steadfast Contractors Alliance,	100545	SA-15195	Irrigation Repair 08/25	\$	1,235.75
LLC Straley Robin Vericker	100539	27131	Legal Services 08/25	\$	2,387.40
The Observer Group, Inc.	100536	25-01845P	Legal Advertising 09/25	\$	87.50
Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc.	20250919-1	Electric Summary 08/25 ACH	Electric Summary 08/25	\$	3,727.85
Report Total				\$	122,590.80

Tab 3



LLS Tax Solutions Inc. 1645 Sun City Center Plz., #5027 Sun City Center, Fl 33571 Telephone: 850-754-0311 Email: liscott@llstax.com

October 10, 2025

Connerton East Community Development District c/o Rizzetta & Company, Inc. 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200 Tampa, Florida 33614

Thank you for choosing LLS Tax Solutions Inc. ("LLS Tax") to provide arbitrage services to Connerton East Community Development District ("Client") for the following bond issue. This Engagement Letter describes the scope of the LLS Tax services, the respective responsibilities of LLS Tax and Client relating to this engagement and the fees LLS Tax expects to charge.

• \$9,975,000 Connerton East Community Development District Special Assessment Bonds, Series 2025 (Assessment Area Two)

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The procedures that we will perform are as follows:

- Assist in calculation of the bond yield, unless previously computed and provided to us.
- Assist in determination of the amount, if any, of required rebate to the federal government.
- Issuance of a report presenting the cumulative results since the issue date of the issue of bonds.
- Preparation of necessary reports and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") forms to accompany any required payment to the federal government.

As a part of our engagement, we will read certain documents associated with each issue of bonds for which services are being rendered. We will determine gross proceeds of each issue of bonds based on the information provided in such bond documents. You will have sole responsibility for determining any other amounts not discussed in those documents that may constitute gross proceeds of each series of bonds for the purposes of the arbitrage requirements.

TAX POSITIONS AND REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS

Because the tax law is not always clear, we will use our professional judgment in resolving questions affecting the arbitrage calculations. Unless you instruct us otherwise, we will take the reporting position most favorable to you whenever reasonable. Any of your bond issues may be selected for review by the IRS, which may not agree with our positions. Any proposed adjustments are subject to certain rights of appeal. Because of the lack of clarity in the law, we cannot provide assurances that the positions asserted by the IRS may not ultimately be sustained, which could result in the assessment

of potential penalties. You have the ultimate responsibility for your compliance with the arbitrage laws; therefore, you should review the calculations carefully.

The IRS and some states have promulgated "tax shelter" rules that require taxpayers to disclose their participation in "reportable transactions" by attaching a disclosure form to their federal and/or state income tax returns and, when necessary, by filing a copy with the Internal Revenue Service and/or the applicable state agency. These rules impose significant requirements to disclose transactions and such disclosures may encompass many transactions entered into in the normal course of business. Failure to make such disclosures will result in substantial penalties. In addition, an excise tax is imposed on exempt organizations (including state and local governments) that are a party to prohibited tax shelter transactions (which are defined using the reportable transaction rules). Client is responsible for ensuring that it has properly disclosed all "reportable transactions" and, where applicable, complied with the excise tax provision. The LLS Tax services that are the subject of this Engagement Letter do not include any undertaking by LLS Tax to identify any reportable transactions that have not been the subject of a prior consultation between LLS Tax and Client. Such services, if desired by Client, will be the subject of a separate engagement letter. LLS Tax may also be required to report to the IRS or certain state tax authorities certain tax services or transactions as well as Client's participation therein. The determination of whether, when and to what extent LLS Tax complies with its federal or state "tax shelter" reporting requirements will be made exclusively by LLS Tax. LLS Tax will not be liable for any penalties resulting from Client's failure to accurately and timely file any required disclosure or pay any related excise tax nor will LLS Tax be held responsible for any consequences of its own compliance with its reporting obligations. Please note that any disclosure required by or made pursuant to the tax shelter rules is separate and distinct from any other disclosure that Client might be required to or choose to make with its tax returns (e.g., disclosure on federal Form 8275 or similar state disclosure).

PROFESSIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES

Our professional fees for services listed above for the three annual bond years beginning April 16, 2025, through the period ending April 15, 2028, is \$1,500, which is \$500 each for year. Our invoices are payable upon receipt. Additionally, you may request additional consulting services from us upon occasion; we will bill you for these consulting services at a beforehand agreed upon rate.

Unanticipated factors that could increase our fees beyond the estimate given above include the following (without limitation). Should any of these factors arise we will alert you before additional fees are incurred.

- Investment data provided by you is not in good order or is unusually voluminous.
- Proceeds of bonds have been commingled with amounts not considered gross proceeds of the bonds (if that circumstance has not previously been communicated to us).
- A review or other inquiry by the IRS with respect to an issue of bonds.

The Client (District) has the option to terminate this Agreement within ninety days of providing notice to LLS Tax Solutions Inc. of its intent.

ACCEPTANCE

You understand that the arbitrage services, report and IRS forms described above are solely to assist you in meeting your requirements for federal income tax compliance purposes. This Engagement Letter constitutes the entire agreement between Client and LLS Tax with respect to this engagement, supersedes all other oral and written representations, understandings or agreements relating to this engagement, and may not be amended except by the mutual written agreement of the Client and LLS Tax.

Please indicate your acceptance of this agreement by signing in the space provided below and returning a copy of this Engagement Letter to us. Thank you again for this opportunity to work with you.

Very truly yours,	AGREED AND ACCEPTED:
LLS Tax Solutions Inc.	Connerton East Community Development District
	By:
	, <u></u>
By: Linda L. Scott	Print Name
Linda L. Scott, CPA	Title
<u> </u>	
	Date:

Tab 4



MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2025





Prepared for: Debby Bayne Wallace

Prepared By: Devon Craig

SUMMARY:

Water temps are slowly starting to cool down from the air temperatures lowering. Reoccurring algae blooms will start slowing down and prevent maintenance will be doing its job. Things to remember is that algae blooms can still pop up during cooler months with nutrient introductions such as yard clippings, fertilizers, etc. The ability to aggressively combat and prevent them is much greater as dissolved oxygen levels are much higher and water temps much cooler. Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.







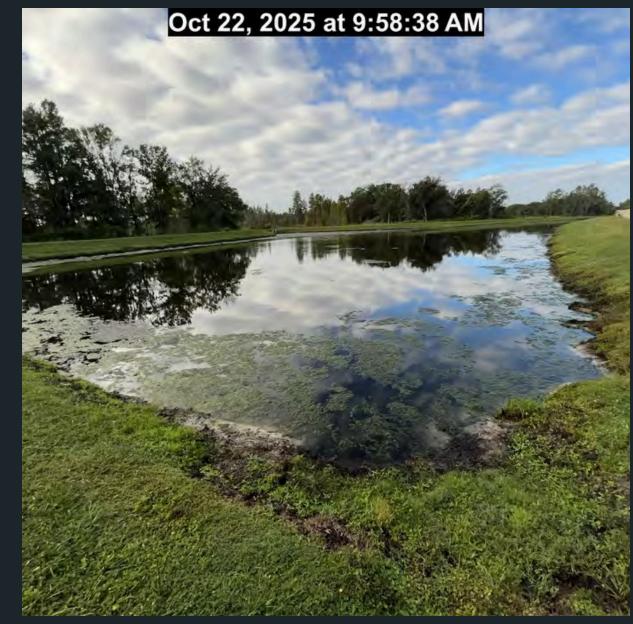
Pond #195 Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond #219N Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond #219S Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.





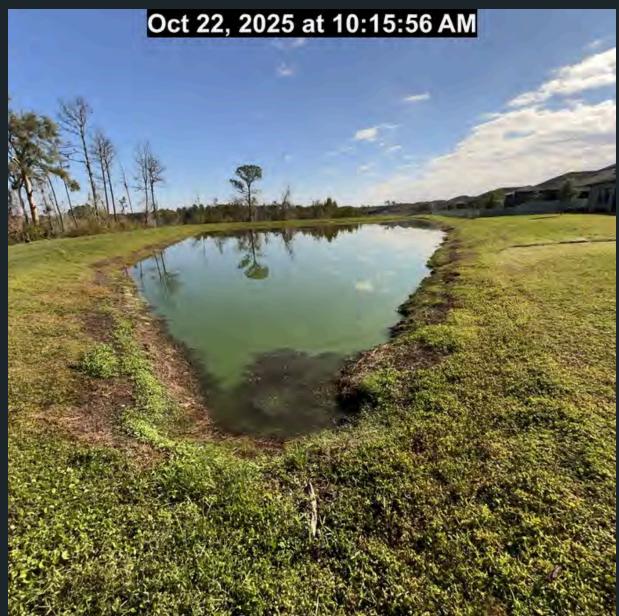


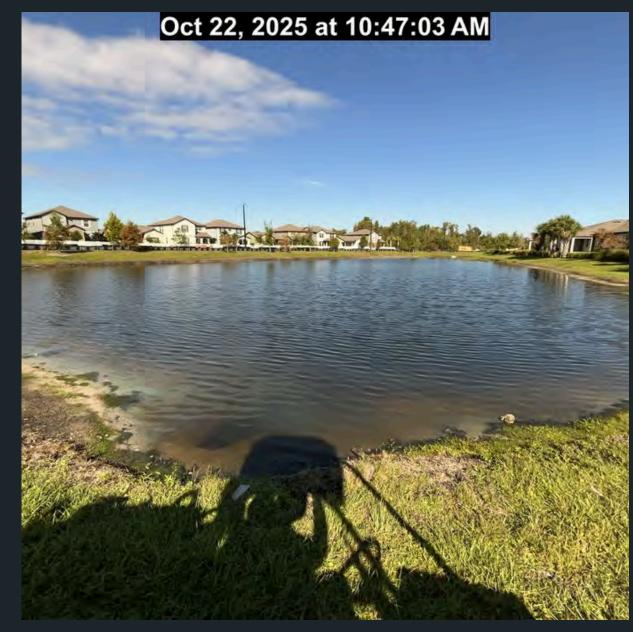
Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.



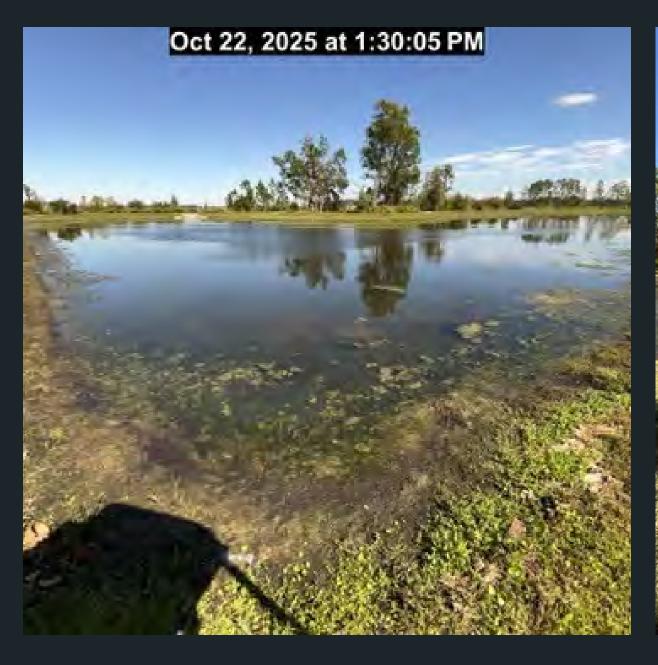




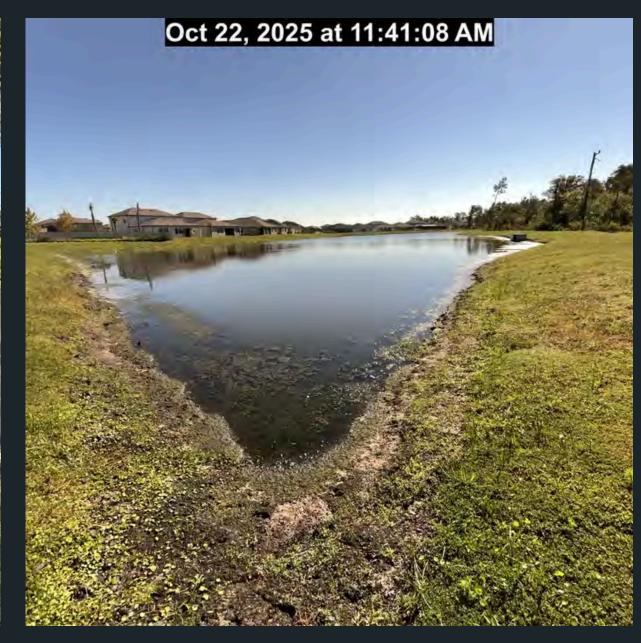
Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

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Pond # Treated for Shoreline Vegetation.







Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond # Treated for Algae and Shoreline Vegetation.

Pond # Treated for Shoreline Vegetation.

Tab 5



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

• Next Meeting: December 09, 2025 @ 5pm

District Manager's Report November 11,

2025

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	9/30/2025
General Fund Cash & Investment Balance:	\$766,055
Debt Service Fund Cash & Investment Balance:	\$1,182,465
Capital Projects Fund Cash & Investment Balance:	\$ 244,580
Total Cash and Investment Balances:	\$2,193,100
neral Fund Expense Variance:	\$162,224 Under Budget

Tab 6



Quarterly Compliance Audit Report

Connerton East

Date: October 2025 - 3rd Quarter **Prepared for:** Matthew Huber

Developer: Rizzetta **Insurance agency:**



Preparer:

Susan Morgan - SchoolStatus Compliance
ADA Website Accessibility and Florida F.S. 189.069 Requirements

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Compliance Audit Overview

The Community Website Compliance Audit (CWCA) consists of a thorough assessment of Florida Community Development District (CDD) websites to assure that specified district information is available and fully accessible. Florida Statute Chapter 189.069 states that effective October, 2015, every CDD in the state is required to maintain a fully compliant website for reporting certain information and documents for public access.

The CWCA is a reporting system comprised of quarterly audits and an annual summary audit to meet full disclosure as required by Florida law. These audits are designed to assure that CDDs satisfy all compliance requirements stipulated in Chapter 189.069.

Compliance Criteria

The CWCA focuses on the two primary areas – website accessibility as defined by U.S. federal laws, and the 16-point criteria enumerated in <u>Florida Statute Chapter</u> 189.069.



ADA Website Accessibility

Several federal statutes (American Disabilities Act, Sec. 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) require public institutions to ensure they are not discriminating against individuals on the basis of a person's disability. Community websites are required to conform to web content accessibility guidelines – WCAG 2.1, which is the international standard established to keep websites barrier-free and the recognized standard for ADA-compliance.



Florida Statute Compliance

Pursuant to F.S. <u>189.069</u>, every CDD is required to maintain a dedicated website to serve as an official reporting mechanism covering, at minimum, 16 criteria. The information required to report and have fully accessible spans: establishment charter or ordinance, fiscal year audit, budget, meeting agendas and minutes and more. For a complete list of statute requirements, see page 3.

Audit Process

The Community Website Compliance Audit covers all CDD web pages and linked PDFs.* Following the <u>WCAG 2.1</u> levels A, AA, and AAA for web content accessibility, a comprehensive scan encompassing 312 tests is conducted for every page. In addition, a human inspection is conducted to assure factors such as navigation and color contrasts meet web accessibility standards. See page 4 for complete accessibility grading criteria.

In addition to full ADA-compliance, the audit includes a 16-point checklist directly corresponding with the criteria set forth in Florida Statute Chapter 189.069. See page 5 for the complete compliance criteria checklist.

* NOTE: Because many CDD websites have links to PDFs that contain information required by law (meeting agendas, minutes, budgets, miscellaneous and ad hoc documents, etc.), audits include an examination of all associated PDFs. PDF remediation and ongoing auditing is critical to maintaining compliance.



Accessibility Grading Criteria

Passed	Description
Passed	Website errors* O WCAG 2.1 errors appear on website pages causing issues**
Passed	Keyboard navigation The ability to navigate website without using a mouse
Passed	Website accessibility policy A published policy and a vehicle to submit issues and resolve issues
Passed	Colors provide enough contrast between elements
Passed	Video captioning Closed-captioning and detailed descriptions
Passed	PDF accessibility Formatting PDFs including embedded images and non-text elements
Passed	Site map Alternate methods of navigating the website

^{*}Errors represent less than 5% of the page count are considered passing

^{**}Error reporting details are available in your Campus Suite Website Accessibility dashboard



Florida F.S. 189.069 Requirements Result: PASSED

Compliance Criteria

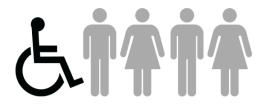
Passed	Description
Passed	Full Name and primary contact specified
Passed	Public Purpose
Passed	Governing body Information
Passed	Fiscal Year
Passed	Full Charter (Ordinance and Establishment) Information
Passed	CDD Complete Contact Information
Passed	District Boundary map
Passed	Listing of taxes, fees, assessments imposed by CDD
Passed	Link to Florida Commission on Ethics
Passed	District Budgets (Last two years)
Passed	Complete Financial Audit Report
Passed	Listing of Board Meetings
N/A	Public Facilities Report, if applicable
Passed	Link to Financial Services
Passed	Meeting Agendas for the past year, and 1 week prior to next

Accessibility overview

Everyone deserves equal access.

With nearly 1-in-5 Americans having some sort of disability – visual, hearing, motor, cognitive – there are literally millions of reasons why websites should be fully accessible and compliant with all state and federal laws. Web accessibility not only keeps board members on the right side of the law, but enables the entire community to access all your web content. The very principles that drive accessible website design are also good for those without disabilities.

19% of population has a disability.



Sight, hearing, physical, cognitive.

The legal and right thing to do

Several federal statutes (American Disabilities Act, Sec. 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) require public institutions to ensure they are not discriminating against individuals on the basis of a person's disability. Community websites are required to conform to web content accessibility guidelines, WCAG 2.1, the international standard established to keep websites barrier-free. Plain and simple, any content on your website must be accessible to everyone.



ADA Compliance Categories

Most of the problems that occur on a website fall in one or several of the following categories.



Contrast and colors

Some people have vision disabilities that hinder picking up contrasts, and some are color blind, so there needs to be a distinguishable contrast between text and background colors. This goes for buttons, links, text on images – everything. Consideration to contrast and color choice is also important for extreme lighting conditions.

Contract checker: http://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker



Using semantics to format your HTML pages

When web page codes are clearly described in easy-to-understand terms, it enables broader sharing across all browsers and apps. This 'friendlier' language not only helps all the users, but developers who are striving to make content more universal on more devices.



Text alternatives for non-text content

Written replacements for images, audio and video should provide all the same descriptors that the non-text content conveys. Besides helping with searching, clear, concise word choice can make vivid non-text content for the disabled.

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/alttext



Ability to navigate with the keyboard

Not everyone can use a mouse. Blind people with many with motor disabilities have to use a keyboard to make their way around a website. Users need to be able to interact fully with your website by navigating using the tab, arrows and return keys only. A "skip navigation" option is also required. Consider using WAI-ARIA for improved accessibility, and properly highlight the links as you use the tab key to make sections.

Helpful article: www.nngroup.com/articles/keyboard-accessibility

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/skipnav

Q

Easy to navigate and find information

Finding relevant content via search and easy navigation is a universal need. Alt text, heading structure, page titles, descriptive link text (no 'click here' please) are just some ways to help everyone find what they're searching for. You must also provide multiple ways to navigate such as a search and a site map.

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/sitetools/



Properly formatting tables

Tables are hard for screen readers to decipher. Users need to be able to navigate through a table one cell at a time. In addition to the table itself needing a caption, row and column headers need to be labeled and data correctly associated with the right header.

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/tables/data



Making PDFs accessible

PDF files must be tagged properly to be accessible, and unfortunately many are not. Images and other non-text elements within that PDF also need to be ADA-compliant. Creating anew is one thing; converting old PDFs – called PDF remediation – takes time.

Helpful articles: http://webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/acrobat



Making videos accessible

Simply adding a transcript isn't enough. Videos require closed captioning and detailed descriptions (e.g., who's on-screen, where they are, what they're doing, even facial expressions) to be fully accessible and ADA compliant.

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/captions



Making forms accessible

Forms are common tools for gathering info and interacting. From logging in to registration, they can be challenging if not designed to be web-accessible. How it's laid out, use of labels, size of clickable areas and other aspects need to be considered.

Helpful article: http://webaim.org/techniques/forms



Alternate versions

Attempts to be fully accessible sometimes fall short, and in those cases, alternate versions of key pages must be created. That is, it is sometimes not feasible (legally, technically) to modify some content. These are the 'exceptions', but still must be accommodated.



Feedback for users

To be fully interactive, your site needs to be able to provide an easy way for users to submit feedback on any website issues. Clarity is key for both any confirmation or error feedback that occurs while engaging the page.



Other related requirements

No flashing

Blinking and flashing are not only bothersome, but can be disorienting and even dangerous for many users. Seizures can even be triggered by flashing, so avoid using any flashing or flickering content.

Timers

Timed connections can create difficulties for the disabled. They may not even know a timer is in effect, it may create stress. In some cases (e.g., purchasing items), a timer is required, but for most school content, avoid using them.

Fly-out menus

Menus that fly out or down when an item is clicked are helpful to dig deeper into the site's content, but they need to be available via keyboard navigation, and not immediately snap back when those using a mouse move from the clickable area.

No pop-ups

Pop-up windows present a range of obstacles for many disabled users, so it's best to avoid using them altogether. If you must, be sure to alert the user that a pop-up is about to be launched.

Web Accessibility Glossary

Assistive technology	Hardware and software for disabled people that enable them to perform tasks they otherwise would not be able to perform (eg., a screen reader)
WCAG 2.0	Evolving web design guidelines established by the W3C that specify how to accommodate web access for the disabled
504	Section of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that protects civil liberties and guarantees certain rights of disabled people
508	An amendment to the Rehabilitation Act that eliminates barriers in information technology for the disabled
ADA	American with Disabilities Act (1990)
Screen reader	Software technology that transforms the on-screen text into an audible voice. Includes tools for navigating/accessing web pages.
Website accessibility	Making your website fully accessible for people of all abilities
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium – the international body that develops standards for using the web