AGENDA

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

SPECIAL MEETING

November 2, 2026, at 5:00 PM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS
412 WEST ORANGE STREET,
ROOM 117, WAUCHULA, FL 33873

COMMISSIONERS

District I Timothy E. Wells
District II Noey A. Flores
District III E. Donald Chancey, Jr.
District IV Russell A. Melendy
District V Kenneth A. Miller

County Manager John Eason
Clerk Victoria L. Rogers
County Attorney Sarah Allen
Assistant County Manager Christopher Simpron
Administrative Services Manager Holly Smith
Executive Assistant Brandy Crawford
Deputy Clerk Laura Barker
Deputy Clerk Jessica Santibanez
Deputy Clerk Joley Pleger

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

   A. **Lane Schneider, Emergency Management Director** - Resolution 2027-12 - Local State of Emergency

   - Motion to approve Resolution 2027-12, A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, Florida, declaring a State of Local Emergency; waiving procedures and formalities during the period of such emergency; authorizing and directing the County Manager to take whatever prudent actions may be necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community pursuant to this declaration; providing an effective date.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2.A

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HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE:	November 2, 2026
SUBMITTED BY:	Brandy Crawford, Emergency Management
ITEM TYPE:	Business Agenda
AGENDA SECTION:	**BUSINESS AGENDA**
SUBJECT:	**Lane Schneider, Emergency Management Director** - Resolution 2027-12 - Local State of Emergency
SUGGESTED ACTION:	- Motion to approve Resolution 2027-12, A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, Florida, declaring a State of Local Emergency; waiving procedures and formalities during the period of such emergency; authorizing and directing the County Manager to take whatever prudent actions may be necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community pursuant to this declaration; providing an effective date.

ATTACHMENTS:

Reso 2027-12 - LSE Flooding changes accepted 11.2.26 - Signed by Legal.pdf

HARDEE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2027-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY; WAIVING PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF SUCH EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO TAKE WHATEVER PRUDENT ACTIONS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY PURSUANT TO THIS DECLARATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2026, the National Weather Service in Tampa Bay issued a Flash Flood Warning for Eastern Hardee County, Northern DeSoto County and Northwestern Highlands County; and

WHEREAS, flash flooding of small creeks and streams, urban areas, highways, streets and underpasses as well as other poor drainage and low-lying areas will be impacted; and

WHEREAS, areas within the County expected to experience flash flooding include Wauchula, Sweetwater, Zolfo Springs, Crewsville, Gardner, Brownville, Josephine and Limestone; and

WHEREAS, flood warnings are in effect for Peace River in Zolfo Springs at State Road 17 until November 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, provides authority for a county to declare a state of local emergency and to exercise emergency powers for the duration of the state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Hardee County (the "County") Board of County Commissioners (the "BOCC") finds that declaration of a state of local emergency (the "LSE") is necessary to prepare for and respond to the potential disaster; and

WHEREAS, the LSE shall expire on November 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. unless terminated earlier or extended as provided for herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, Florida as follows:

SECTION 1. DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY.

A. A State of Local Emergency ("LSE") for all of Hardee County is hereby declared on November 2, 2026, at _____, the LSE shall end on November 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. unless extended by the BOCC.

B. The BOCC hereby exercises its authority and waives the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law, as provided in Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, declaring a state of local emergency.

C. All provisions of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ("CEMP") relating to this type of event shall be implemented.

D. During the LSE, the Sheriff is designated as Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Hardee County.

E. In accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, actions of the municipalities within Hardee County shall be coordinated with County Emergency Management and not conflict with any order of the County.

F. That the County Manager is empowered to order mandatory evacuations as evolving conditions may require pursuant to the CEMP. Any such evacuation shall remain in force until ended by further order. Any unauthorized person located in, or attempting to enter, an evacuation area after the stated completion time for an evacuation order issued as contemplated herein shall be in violation of Section 252.20, Florida Statutes, and subject to the penalties therein.

G. The County Manager or designee will monitor disaster-related debris and shall be empowered to remove disaster-debris which (a) poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, or life; or (b) poses an immediate threat of significant damage to improved public or private property; or (c) the removal is necessary to ensure economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large.

H. The BOCC hereby delegates authority to the County Manager, for the duration of this emergency declaration, to appropriate funds from reserves as necessary to support emergency operations and response in a timely manner, and further, to suspend budgetary controls to the extent necessary to accomplish this purpose. The aforementioned authority is subject to after-the-fact ratification of the BOCC.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of November, 2026, at a duly noticed meeting of The Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, Florida.

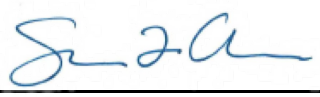
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Noey A. Flores
Chair

ATTEST:

Victoria L. Rogers
Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



BRYANT MILLER OLIVE, P.A.
COUNTY ATTORNEY