



Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board
P.O. Box 1760
LaBelle, FL. 33935
(863)675-5347 - Office (863)675-0390 – Fax

April 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 6:00 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

County Commissioner/Chairman, Emory “Rowdy” Howard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner Mitchell Wills.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were, County Commissioner/Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills, City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt, City Commissioner Jackie Ratica, Schoolboard Member Paul Samerdyke, and Director Steven Lynn.

Bids: None

Consent Agenda: Approval of March 19, 2026 Minutes and bills:

School Board Member Paul Samerdyke asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt Seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Awards, Appearances, and Presentations: None

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Correspondence:

Staff Reports:

Director Lynn asked the board how the mowing contract should address renewal options. The board agreed that the contract would be renewed annually at the board's discretion.

Director Lynn provided updates on Forrey, noting that additional sod has been installed on the major field. He also reported on Singleton, where the floors have been repainted, and both the windows and lights have been repaired.

He further shared that an irrigation inspection was completed on the soccer fields at the civic park. Daniel Romo of Mainscape, who donated his time to conduct the inspection, determined that the system's main issue is low pressure caused by irrigation on multiple fields operating at the same time, which stems from a wiring problem. He implemented a delay to help with the issue but recommended installing new wiring. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested that staff obtain three proposals for new wiring for the soccer fields, including new heads and any related repairs. The motion was seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt and passed unanimously.

Director Lynn then requested approval to attend the annual FRPA conference in August. City Commissioner Jackie Ratica made a motion to approve, which was seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt. The motion passed unanimously.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills added that it would be beneficial for office personnel to attend conferences as well.

Hearing of the public:

Sherri Walker of the LaBelle Family Livestock Club addressed the board to express her appreciation to the board and the special districts for allowing the club to host a workshop at the arena grounds. She shared that the club is working on ways to keep the dirt in the arena and make improvements. The board thanked her and the club for their efforts and dedication.

County Commissioner Ramon Iglesias stated that he is working on bringing PRCA events back to the rodeo grounds.

Jennifer Kingman requested the board's permission to use the fields at Forrey Park for the 12U baseball team, the Caloosa Cats, for tournaments and camps. She also is interested in hosting a scrimmage game for the opening of Forrey Park. The board agreed to her request.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY "ROWDY" HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Reports and other buisness:

School Board Member Paul Samerdyke suggested that certificates of appreciation be created for Mainscape for their work at the civic park and for the LaBelle Family Livestock Club for their contributions at the LaBelle rodeo grounds.

Agenda Additions: None

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 6:45 p.m.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner