

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETING

#### GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 10, 2013, at the Tampa Service Office. The following persons were present:

#### Board Members Present

Michael A. Babb, Vice Chair  
Randall S. Maggard, Secretary  
Jeffrey M. Adams, Treasurer  
David W. Dunbar, Member  
Wendy Griffin, Member  
George W. Mann, Member  
H. Paul Senft, Member

#### Board Member(s) via teleconferencing

Carlos M. Beruff, Chair  
Bryan K. Beswick, Member  
Thomas E. Bronson, Member

#### Board Member(s) Absent

Todd Pressman, Member

#### Staff Members Present

Robert R. Beltran, Executive Director Designee  
Kurt P. Fritsch, Inspector General  
Laura J. Donaldson, General Counsel  
David T. Rathke, Chief of Staff  
Mark A. Hammond, Division Director  
Michael L. Holtkamp, Division Director  
Alba E. Más, Division Director  
Kenneth L. Frink, Division Director  
Daryl F. Pokrana, Director, Finance Bureau  
Cathy A. Linsbeck, Budget Manager, Finance  
Michael B. Cacioppo, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance  
Alan J. Lynch, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance  
Cara S. Martin, Manager, Board & Executive Services

#### Recorded by:

Jeremy McKay, Video Production Engineer

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent records of the District. This meeting was available for viewing through internet streaming. Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site ([www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org)).

#### 1. Call to Order and Opening Comments

Vice Chair Babb called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing. This meeting is being conducted using communications media technology in order to permit maximum participation of Governing Board members.

Ms. Martin called the roll and noted a quorum was present. Vice Chair Babb then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Vice Chair Babb said this hearing is for the purpose of adopting a tentative millage rate and budget for the Southwest Florida Water Management District, pursuant to Sections 373.536 and 200.065, Florida Statutes, as amended. If any member of the public would like to speak during this hearing, please fill out a blue card located at the desk outside the door and give the card to Ms. Martin who is seated at the table in front of the dais. Members of the public will be called on at the appropriate time during the meeting and will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Vice Chair Babb relinquished the gavel to Mr. Adams, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee. (00:00/06:10)

2. **Budget Overview**

Mr. Adams said the purpose of this first Truth in Millage (TRIM) public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions prior to the Governing Board's adoption of a tentative millage rate and budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14. A second public hearing will be held on September 24, 2013, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget, and also to be held at the Tampa Service Office.

Mr. Adams said this budget was developed based on current fiscal goals to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region's water resources. The proposed budget is \$170.8 million. While the overall proposed budget is seven percent higher, the recurring (or operating) portion of the budget has been reduced by one percent from \$75.7 million to \$75 million which is a reduction of almost \$1 million. The non-recurring or projects portion of the budget has increased from \$83.8 million to \$95.8 million, an increase of \$12 million or 14 percent. This includes grants in support of the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative, as well as funding for District programs such as FARMS and SWIM. Operating costs reductions in the last several years has allowed the District to increase investments in the region; and those investments will protect water resources, spur the economy and create jobs.

Mr. Adams said that, by combining the operating reductions with savings from projects completed under budget or cancelled, the District invested \$70 million into Cooperative Funding projects in this proposed budget. The Cooperative Funding grants will result in matching project funds of at least \$70 million, for a total investment for sustainable, alternative water supply development and other water resource management projects of over \$140 million. This is an increase from \$66 million leveraged this year.

Mr. Adams said the District achieved the following goals with this budget: (1) Salaries and Benefits are 47 percent of ad valorem; (2) total Recurring Costs, including Salaries and Benefits, are 74 percent of ad valorem; and (3) Non-Recurring Costs are 56 percent of total budget. This has been done without incurring any debt. The proposed budget includes \$101.5 million in ad valorem property tax revenue. This is based on reducing the millage rate from 0.3928 mill to 0.3818 mill, which is a reduction of almost three percent. This millage rate is 0.5 percent below the rolled-back millage rate. The rolled-back rate is the millage rate that would have given us the same amount of revenue as the current year plus taxes on new construction. By reducing the millage rate, District taxpayers will pay \$2.9 million less in ad valorem taxes. The District has reduced its workforce an additional five percent from 617 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) to 585 FTEs. Notwithstanding these reductions, the District has maintained or improved its service goals as indicated through the quarterly water management district metrics reports published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Mr. Adams said the District has done a good job on this budget proposal, and he believes that this budget will be well received by the FDEP, the Executive Office of the Governor, and the Florida Legislature. Since there are no proposed changes to the fiscal year 2013-14 budget as last presented to the Governing Board on August 27, 2013, and the District has not received any written comments from the chairs of legislative committees or subcommittees due September 5, Ms. Linsbeck will proceed to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item 3. (06:10/11:25)

3. **Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Decrease, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2013-14**

Ms. Linsbeck presented the required public announcement of the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of decrease below the rolled-back rate, and the millage rate to be levied for fiscal year 2013-14, and read into the record as required for the District.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF DECREASE BELOW ROLLED-BACK RATE	MILLAGE RATE
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.3837	-0.50%	0.3818

(11:25/12:10)

4. **Public Comments**

a. **Letters/Resolutions Received**

Mr. Adams noted the District has received no correspondence. The District has received two calls from taxpayers regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-14.

Any correspondence and resolutions received regarding the tentative millage rate and budget have been compiled into an Exhibit "A" to Agenda Item 4.a. and are hereby incorporated by reference into the public record of this meeting. Copies of this exhibit are available and located at District headquarters.

b. **Persons Wishing to Address the Board**

Mr. Adams requested that anyone wishing to address the budget come forward, and state their name, address, and group affiliation, if any. There were no requests to address the Board. (12:10/13:00)

5. **Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2013-14 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-12**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

This resolution is made a part of these minutes as if set forth in full but, for convenience, is filed in the permanent resolution files of the District.

Following consideration, **Mr. Senft moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-12, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, of 0.3818 mill. Mr. Maggard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.** (13:00/13:35)

6. **Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-13**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

This resolution is made a part of these minutes as if set forth in full but, for convenience, is filed in the permanent resolution files of the District.

Following consideration, **Mr. Senft moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-13, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, in the amount of \$170,776,482. Mr. Dunbar seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.** (13:35/14:30)

7. **Announcement of Second and Final Public Hearing**

Mr. Adams announced the second public hearing will be held on September 24, 2013, 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office. Final action on the FY2013-14 budget will be taken at that time.

Mr. Adams relinquished the gavel to Vice Chair Babb. (14:30/15:25)

Vice Chair Babb closed the public hearing

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Dunbar moved, seconded by Mr. Senft, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously** and Vice Chair Babb adjourned the meeting. (15:25/15:45)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.