

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2012 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:04 p.m. on September 13, 2011, at the Tampa Service Office. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

H. Paul Senft, Chair
Hugh Gramling, Vice Chair
Albert G. Joerger, Treasurer
Michael A. Babb, Member
Jennifer E. Closshey, Member

Board Members Teleconferencing

Douglas B. Tharp, Secretary
Jeffrey M. Adams, Member
Bryan K. Beswick, Member

Board Members Absent

Carlos Beruff, Member
Neil Combee, Member
Todd Pressman, Member
Judith C. Whitehead, Member

Staff Members Present

William S. Bilenky, Interim Executive Director
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Richard S. Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director
Kurt Fritsch, Acting Deputy Executive Director
Daryl F. Pokrana, Director, Finance Dept.
Linda R. Pilcher, Assistant Director, Finance Dept.
Cathy A. Linsbeck, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance
Eloise M. Buzbee, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance
Alan J. Lynch, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance
Michael B. Cacioppo, Staff Budget Analyst, Finance

Recorded by

Randy Emberg, Video Production Spec. Supervisor
Joyce Morra, Administrative Coordinator, Finance

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. This meeting was conducted using communications media technology in order to permit maximum participation of Governing Board members.

1. Call to Order

Chair Senft called the meeting to order, and said it is time to proceed with the public hearing as scheduled and properly noticed for this date and time. Public comment will only be accepted here at the Tampa Service Office; however, there are numerous opportunities for the public to provide comment via correspondence, facsimile and electronic mail prior to the Board's final hearing on September 27, 2011, at 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office.

Ms. Kavouras called the roll noting which Board members were present or teleconferencing (see above). A quorum was present with five members participating in person and three members participating via telephone.

Chair Senft then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bilenky offered the invocation.

2. Open Public Hearing

Chair Senft 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. Kavouras 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.

Chair Senft relinquished the gavel to Mr. Joerger, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. (00:00/04:23)

Mr. Joerger said the purpose of this first Truth in Millage (or TRIM) public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions prior to the adoption of a tentative millage rate and budget for the District. A second public hearing will be held on September 27, 2011, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget, also to be held here, at the Tampa Service Office. This year, the Board and staff used the budget process to achieve substantial change in the organization. The budget development process began in January when the Governing Board approved the Budget Priorities and Assumptions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The process will end with the adoption of a final millage rate and budget by this Board at the second public hearing on September 27.

Mr. Joerger said the District's combined FY2012 budget is \$156 million, a decrease of \$124 million (a 44 percent reduction) from the current budget of \$280 million. The budget was developed in compliance with Senate Bill 2142, which established a cap of \$107,766,957, as the maximum amount of ad valorem taxes that may be levied by this District for FY2012. This represents a 36-percent reduction from FY2011, and has made the development of this year's budget a challenge with an opportunity to clarify priorities. At its July meeting, the Governing Board adopted a District millage rate of 0.3928, and most citizens will see reduced taxes for FY2012.

Mr. Joerger said, on August 24, 2011, the District received a letter from Governor Rick Scott who disapproved the District's scheduled operating reserves in the amount of \$2.4 million, and the District's scheduled Salary and Benefits expenditure by \$1.575 million (related to personnel reductions) and by \$259,000 (related to compensation of senior level staff). The proposed FY2012 budget has been adjusted for these items. Importantly, Governor Scott expressed his appreciation for finding efficiencies and savings, thus enabling the submission of our budget at a savings of \$124 million. The Governor also applauded the District's forward thinking in meeting the region's water supply needs into the future. Governor Scott recognized that the financial engine has allowed the District and its partners to construct vital infrastructure that has been instrumental in supporting the growth of the region over the last decade.

Mr. Joerger noted that, on September 7, 2011, the Legislative Budget Commission reviewed the District's FY2012 budget and voted to allow the District's budget to move forward without any disallowances.

Mr. Joerger said, in summary, he believes this budget reflects the District's goal of providing cost-effective quality services while protecting and enhancing the public's water resources. He thanked the staffs of the Executive Office of the Governor, Department of Environmental Protection and Legislature for their thoughtful involvement this year. He thanked Board members, staff, and all others involved in the process for their special efforts required to develop this budget and make desired changes. (04:23/08:35)

3. **Budget Overview**

Ms. Pilcher explained the changes to the proposed budget since the Board's August 30, 2011, meeting. She then reviewed the proposed FY2012 Revenue Budget; Expenditure Budget by Program Area; Expenditure Budget by Category; Budget Summary Comparison – All Funds Expenditures; Budget Summary Advertisement; Total Projected Resources Available October 1, 2011; and how the District allocates resources by six statutory program areas for tentative budget and tentative budget adjusted for projected carryover encumbrances (08:35/16:08)

4. **Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Decrease, and Millage Rate to be Levied for FY2012**

Ms. Pilcher presented the required public announcement of the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of tax decrease below the rolled-back rate, and the millage rate to be levied for FY2012, and read into the record as required for the District.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF TAX DECREASE BELOW ROLLED-BACK RATE	MILLAGE RATE
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.6168	-36.32%	0.3928

(16:08/16:42)

5. **Public Comments**

a. **Letters/Resolutions Received**

Mr. Joerger noted the District has received no correspondence from taxpayers in response to receiving their 2011 Notice of Proposed Property Taxes. He said staff has received ten phone calls relating primarily to notice of proposed property taxes.

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

Mr. Joerger requested that anyone wishing to address the budget come forward, and state their name, address, and group affiliation, if any.

Mr. David Gore, said he is an interested citizen who lives in Polk County and attended the budget hearing two years ago. He expressed his concerns with funding to protect water resources and provided information to Board members.

Mr. Joerger thanked Mr. Gore for his comments. (16:42/24:00)

6. **Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2012 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 11-16
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012**

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, **Ms. Closshey moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-16, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2012, of 0.3928 mill. Mr. Gramling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.** (24:00/24:44)

7. **Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2012 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 11-17
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012**

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, **Ms. Closshey moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-17, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, in the amount of \$155,543,897. Chair Senft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (24:44/25:20)**

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

Mr. Joerger announced the second public hearing will be held on September 27, 2011, 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office. Final action on the FY2012 budget will be taken at that time.

Mr. Joerger relinquished the gavel to Chair Senft.

Chair Senft noted that Board members will be contacted by the new Executive Director Blake Guillory in the next few weeks.

Chair Senft suggested that next year's Board chair consider changing the 5:01 p.m. meeting time next year so that the public may attend the budget hearings after their work day.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Closshey moved, seconded by Mr. Joerger, to adjourn the meeting. (25:20/27:56)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.