

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 13, 2016 at the Tampa Service Office. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

Randall S. Maggard, Chair
Jeffrey M. Adams, Vice Chair
Bryan K. Beswick, Secretary
Ed Armstrong, Treasurer
H. Paul Senft, Member
George W. Mann, Member
Kelly S. Rice, Member
Michelle Williamson, Member
Mark Taylor, Member

Board Member via teleconferencing

Michael Moran, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

Michael A. Babb, Member
John Henslick, Member

Staff Members Present

Brian Armstrong, Executive Director
Kurt P. Fritsch, Inspector General
Karen West, General Counsel
David T. Rathke, Division Director
Mark A. Hammond, Division Director
Alba E. Más, Division Director
Kenneth L. Frink, Division Director
John J. Campbell, Division Director
Cathy A. Linsbeck, Budget Manager
Cara S. Martin, Board & Executive Services Manager

Recorded by:

Lori Manuel, Administrative Assistant

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).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Maggard 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. Chair Maggard then led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chair Maggard 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 wishes to address the Governing Board concerning any item listed on the agenda, or any item that does not appear on the agenda, please fill out a speaker's card and submit it to Ms. Manuel. 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 Maggard relinquished the gavel to Mr. Ed Armstrong, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee.

2. Opening Comments

Treasurer Armstrong stated 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) 2016-17. A second public hearing will be held on September 27, 2016, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget, and also to be held at the Tampa Service Office.

Treasurer Armstrong 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 \$180.1 million compared to \$184.3 million for the FY2015-16 Adopted Budget. This budget includes \$13.3 million for springs protection. Leveraged with an additional \$2.8 million from local cooperators, this results in \$16.1 million investment for the northern coast springs system. The proposed budget continues a significant level of capital investments in our region to ensure the District's core mission is achieved. Those investments will continue to protect our water resources, spur the economy and create jobs.

Treasurer Armstrong stated the non-recurring or projects portion of the budget represents 58 percent of the total budget at \$104.7 million. This includes grants in support of the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative, land acquisition, as well as funding for District programs such as Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) and Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) programs.

The Cooperative Funding grants combined with matching project funds through cooperative partnerships with public and private partners will result in \$120 million total investment for water resource projects in the region this upcoming fiscal year.

Treasurer Armstrong said the District achieved the following goals with this budget: salaries and benefits are 47 percent of ad valorem; total recurring costs, including salaries and benefits are 71 percent of ad valorem; and project expenditures are 58 percent of the total budget. This has been done without incurring any debt.

The District's combined budget for outreach and district management & administration programs represents 8% of the FY2017 total budget. This is well below the 15 percent threshold requiring Legislative Budget Commission approval.

The proposed budget includes \$106 million in ad valorem property tax revenue. This is based on reducing the millage rate from 0.3488 mill to 0.3317 mill, which is a reduction of over 4.9 percent. This millage rate is at the rolled-back millage rate. The rolled-back rate is the millage rate that would give the District the same amount of revenue as the current year, plus taxes on new construction. The proposed budget includes \$10.1 million for Springs Initiative and \$2.75 million for land management.

Treasurer Armstrong stated the District extends its gratitude to Governor Scott, Department of Environmental Protection and the Legislature for these state appropriations.

The District has not received any written comments from the chairs of legislative committee or subcommittees due by September 5. There have been no proposed changes to the FY2016-17 budget as last presented to the Governing Board on July 26, 2016.

Treasurer Armstrong introduced Mr. John Campbell, Management Services Director, who proceeded to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item number 3.

3. Budget Overview

Mr. John Campbell, provided an overview of the FY2016-17 budget. He stated the FY2016-17 budget amount is of \$180,124,902. No changes have been made to the revenue budget since the July 26 Governing Board Meeting.

4. Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Decrease, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2016-17

Mr. Campbell presented the required public announcement of the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of increase above the rolled-back rate, and the millage rate to be levied for fiscal year 2017, and read into the record as required for the District.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE ABOVE ROLLED-BACK RATE	MILLAGE RATE
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.3317 mill	0.0%	0.3317 mill

5. Public Comments

a. Letters/Resolutions Received

Treasurer Armstrong noted the letters and resolutions received regarding the tentative millage rate and budget, if any have been compiled into an Exhibit "A" to Agenda Item 5a and are hereby incorporated, by reference, into the public record of this meeting.

b. Persons Wishing to Address the Board

Treasurer Armstrong stated a *Request to Speak* was received.

Mr. David Ballard Geddis, Jr., spoke against District ad valorem taxation.

6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2016-17 Millage Rate

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 16-11**

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

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.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 16-11, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, of 0.3317 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio 00:13:19)

7. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 16-12**

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

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.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 16-12, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17, in the amount of \$180,124,902 which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (00:13:43)

8. Announcement of Second and Final Public Hearing

Treasurer Armstrong announced the second public hearing will be held on September 27, 2016 at 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office. Final action on the FY2016-17 budget will be taken at that time.

Treasurer Armstrong relinquished the gavel to Chair Maggard.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. Motion carried unanimously** and Chair Maggard adjourned the meeting.

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



Chair

Attest:



The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211, ext. 4702, or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or email to ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us. E