

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 15, 2015 at the Tampa Service Office. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

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

Board Member(s) via teleconferencing

Bryan k. Beswick, Member
Michael Moran, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

H. Paul Senft, Member
Thomas E. Bronson, Member

Staff Members Present

Robert R. Beltran, Executive Director
Brian Armstrong, Assistant Executive Director
Kurt P. Fritsch, Inspector General
Karen West, General Counsel
David T. Rathke, Chief of Staff
Mark A. Hammond, Division Director
Alba E. Más, Division Director
Kenneth L. Frink, Division Director
Linda Howard, Bureau Chief, Finance
Cathy A. Linsbeck, Budget Manager, Finance
Cara S. Martin, Manager, Board & Executive Services

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

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 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 Babb relinquished the gavel to Mr. Dunbar, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee.

2. Opening Comments

Mr. Dunbar 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) 2015-16. A second public hearing will be held on September 29, 2015, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget, and also to be held at the Tampa Service Office.

Mr. Dunbar 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 \$184.3 million. This is an increase from \$166.3 million for FY2014-15. The majority of the increase is due to project expenditures. This budget includes \$22.7 million for springs protection. Leveraged with an additional \$5.5 million from local cooperators, this results in \$28.2 million investment for the northern coast springs system. The District has reduced operating costs and increased the level of service in the last seven years, which has allowed the District to increase investments in the region; those investments will protect water resources, spur the economy and create jobs.

Mr. Dunbar stated the non-recurring or projects portion of the budgeted increased from \$93.7 million to \$109.8 million an increase of \$16.1 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 \$150 million total investment for water resource projects in the region this upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Dunbar 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 72 percent of ad valorem; and project expenditures are 60 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 FY2016 total budget. This is down from 9% in the FY2015 budget and well below the 15% threshold requiring Legislative Budget Commission approval.

The proposed budget includes \$104 million in ad valorem property tax revenue. This is based on reducing the millage rate from 0.3658 to 0.3488 mill, which is a reduction of over 4.6 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 \$16.15 million in new state revenue, \$13.4 million for Springs Initiative and \$2.75 million for land management. I would like to extend our gratitude to Governor Scott, Department of Environmental Protection and the Legislature for these state appropriations.

Mr. Dunbar said the District has done a good job on this budget proposal, and he believes that the District's work will be well received by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Executive Office of the Governor, and the Florida Legislature.

The District has not received any written comments from the chairs of legislative committee or subcommittees due by September 5, 2015. There have been no proposed changes to the FY2016 budget as last presented to the Governing Board on July 28, 2015.

Mr. Dunbar introduced Ms. Cathy Linsbeck, Budget Manager, who proceeded to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item number 3.

3. Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Decrease, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2015-16

Ms. Linsbeck 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 2016, 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	0.3488 mill	0.0%	0.3488 mill

4. Public Comments

a. Letters/Resolutions Received

Mr. Dunbar 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

Mr. Dunbar stated a *Request to Speak* was received.

Mr. Joe Obusek, resident, addressed flooding in the Lake Carol area and asked what may be budgeted in the FY2015-16 budget to address these concerns.

Board Member Mann asked if Mr. Obusek contacted District staff. Mr. Obusek responded in the affirmative.

Board Member Adams asked if the property ever flooded prior to the current flooding. Mr. Obusek responded in the affirmative. He indicated during 1995/1996 flooding occurred, however the property has experienced continuously flooding over the last four years.

Staff will be in contact with Mr. Obusek to discuss his concerns.

5. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2015-16 Millage Rate

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 15-13

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

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. 15-13, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, of 0.3488 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio 00:09:24)

6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 15-14

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

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. 15-14, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16, in the amount of \$184,265,723 which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (00:09:44)

7. Announcement of Second and Final Public Hearing

Mr. Dunbar announced the second public hearing will be held on September 29, 2015 at 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office. Final action on the FY2015-16 budget will be taken at that time.

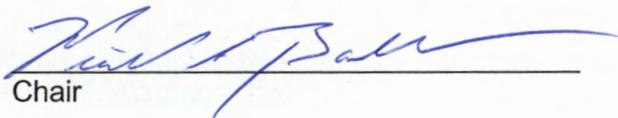
Mr. Dunbar relinquished the gavel to Chair Babb.

8. Adjournment

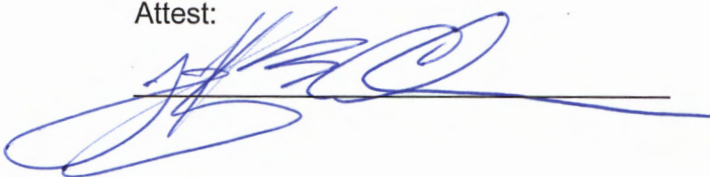
Mr. Babb noted since 2010 the District's Governing Board has reduced its millage rate more than 40% to help reduce the tax burden for Florida residents. During the same time the District's total workforce has decreased from 891 FTEs to 574 FTEs, a total reduction of 36%. These were appropriate steps to take to address the changing economy of our region and to ensure the District's long-term sustainability. This philosophy gives the District the flexibility to make the necessary changes to continue to meet our mission. He also stated as we prepare for the development of the 2017 Preliminary Budget we must plan to strategically address the changes and trends we are seeing within the District.

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 Babb adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 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