

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 16, 2014, 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
H. Paul Senft, Member
Wendy Griffin, Member
George W. Mann, Member
Bryan K. Beswick, Member
Ed Armstrong, Member

Board Member(s) via teleconferencing

Michael Moran, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

Carlos Beruff, Member
Thomas E. Bronson, Member

Staff Members Present

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

Recorded by:

Randy Emberg, 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).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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. Chair Babb then led 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. Martin. 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. (02:09)

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) 2014-15. A second public hearing will be held on September 30, 2014, 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 \$166.3 million. The recurring (or operating) portion of the budget has been reduced almost \$2.3 million from \$75 million to \$72.7 million, which is approximately a three percent reduction. In continuing efforts to find efficiencies, the District has reviewed, analyzed and re-allocated vacant positions as they occurred throughout the District. This resulted in a reduction of 11 positions, reducing our workforce from 585 in fiscal year 2013-14 to 574 for fiscal year 2014-15. The non-recurring or projects portion of the budget has decreased from \$95.8 million to \$93.6 million, a decrease of \$2.2 million. This includes grants in support of the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative, as well as funding for District programs such as FARMS and SWIM. The District has reduced operating costs and increased the level of service in the last six 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 said that, by combining the operating reductions with savings from projects completed under budget or cancelled, the District will leverage \$70 million through cooperative partnerships with public and private partners.

The Cooperative Funding grants, combined with matching project funds of \$69 million will result in \$139 million total investment for sustainable, alternative water supply development and other water resource management projects in the region.

Mr. Dunbar said the District achieved the following goals with this budget: (1) Salaries and Benefits are 46 percent of ad valorem, this is a decrease from 47 percent in FY2013-14; (2) total Recurring Costs, including Salaries and Benefits, are 71 percent of ad valorem, this is a decrease from 74 percent in FY2013-14. This has been done without incurring any debt.

The proposed budget includes \$102.3 million in ad valorem property tax revenue. This is based on reducing the millage rate from 0.3818 mill to 0.3658 mill, which is a reduction of over four 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. This represents the second year that the District has reduced the millage rate on taxpayers in the District. Notwithstanding these reductions, the District has maintained or improved its service goals as indicated through the water management district metrics report which is published quarterly by the Department of Environmental Protection.

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 DEP, 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 September 5, 2014. There have been some proposed changes to the fiscal year 2014-15 budget as last presented to the Governing Board on July 21, 2014.

Mr. Dunbar said that Mr. John Campbell, Director of the Management Services Division, will review the changes and then proceed to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item 4. (06:16)

3. Budget Overview

Mr. Campbell provided the Board with an update and chart highlighting the changes made to the expenditure and revenue budgets since the July 21, Governing Board meeting. On the expenditure side, there are four water supply projects which will contribute to reducing groundwater withdrawals and improving water quality in the springs region. Three of the four are new projects for the FY2015. The Heritage Pines project, N547, is in its second year of funding. Three hundred thousand dollars was already in the budget through the CFI process; and with the additional \$300,000 in state funding, the total funding in FY2015 for the project will be \$600,000. On the revenue side there is the matching \$6.4 million from the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the springs initiative projects just mentioned. Note that the millage rate of .3658 mill proposed at the July 21 meeting has not changed and the entire \$6.4 million increase in the tentative budget is being funded by state appropriations through the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Campbell presented a chart showing the 2014-15 budget by expenditure category comparing the budget from the July 21 Governing Board meeting to the tentative budget presented at this meeting. The only change is the \$6.4 million in the cooperative funding District grants category for the four springs projects.

Mr. Campbell then presented a chart showing the 2014-15 budget by revenue source comparing the budget from the July 21 Governing Board meeting to the tentative budget presented at this meeting. The only change is the \$6.4 million in state revenue for the four springs projects. (08:34)

4. Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Decrease, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Mr. Campbell 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 2014-15, 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	0.3658	0.0%	0.3658

(08:57)

5. Public Comments

a. Letters/Resolutions Received

Mr. Dunbar noted the District has received no correspondence from taxpayers in response to receiving their 2015 notice of proposed property taxes.

b. Persons Wishing to Address the Board

Mr. Dunbar requested anyone wishing to address the Board come forward, and state their name, address, and group affiliation, if any. There were no requests to address the Board. (09:13)

6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-15 Millage Rate

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 14-10
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

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. Maggard moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-10, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, of 0.3658 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.** (09:31)

7. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 14-11
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

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. Maggard moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-11, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, in the amount of \$166,338,619, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.** (09:53)

8. Announcement of Second and Final Public Hearing

Mr. Dunbar announced the second public hearing will be held on September 30, 2014, 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Service Office. Final action on the FY2014-15 budget will be taken at that time.

Mr. Dunbar relinquished the gavel to Chair Babb. (10:07)

Chair Babb then asked General Counsel, Laura Donaldson, to provide an update of the upcoming Governing Board meeting. Ms. Donaldson advised the Board that at the September 30, 2014, Governing Board meeting, there will be a closed door, attorney-client session regarding the case of SWFWMD v. Danny Suggs as she needs direction regarding negotiating settlement. This is a very complex litigation that has been going on for many years. Ms. Donaldson advised the Board that they will be receiving a detailed recap of the history of the case. She would appreciate if the Board members would review it since there will only be one hour to discuss the best way for the District to proceed. (10:52)

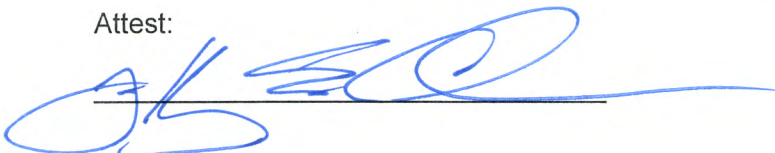
9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Maggard moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. Motion carried unanimously** and Chair Babb adjourned the meeting. (11:04)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 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.