

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 24, 2013, at the District's Tampa Service Office. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

Carlos M. Beruff, Chair
Randall S. Maggard, Secretary
Jeffrey M. Adams, Treasurer
Thomas E. Bronson, Member
David W. Dunbar, Member
Wendy Griffin, Member
George W. Mann, Member
Todd Pressman, Member
H. Paul Senft, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

Michael A. Babb, Vice Chair
Bryan K. Beswick, Member

Staff Members Present

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

Administrative Support:

LuAnne Stout, Administrative Coordinator

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent records of the District. This meeting was conducted using communications media technology in order to permit maximum participation of Board members, and 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 Open Public Hearing** (Video 143:50)

Chair Beruff called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing. Chair Beruff relinquished the gavel to Mr. Adams, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee. (00:00/0:20)

2. **Opening Comments**

Mr. Adams said the purpose of this hearing today is to provide an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions prior to the Governing Board's taking any actions regarding the budget. Following this, the Board will adopt a final millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2013-14.

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 tentative budget is \$170.8 million, which is \$11 million more than last year's budget. This relates to an increase in funding for vital water resource projects within the District's four areas of responsibility: water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems. The tentative 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 is 0.50 percent below the rolled-back millage rate of 0.3837 mill.

Mr. Adams said the District received a letter from Governor Rick Scott after the first public hearing. He read into the record the letter addressed to Mr. Beruff, Governing Board Chair.

In accordance with Section 373.536, Florida Statutes, I have reviewed the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. I want to applaud the district for working cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to focus on the core missions of water supply, flood protection, water quality, and the protection of our natural systems, all while reducing the ad valorem tax rate from the previous year.

I also want to extend my appreciation to you and the rest of the Governing Board and its staff for your continued work on reducing the administrative overhead of the district and dedicating more of your budget to protecting and restoring Florida's water resources. I specifically commend you for adjusting your budget to increase funding for water restoration and public works projects by 17.6 percent from last year. As you know well, our water resources and environment are a key part of the foundation for Florida's growing economy. The continued cost sharing assistance for alternative water supply development and regional water system interconnections will ensure the region's water supply will meet the future demands of our economy and environment.

I would like to personally commend you and the rest of the Governing Board for your efforts to protect Florida's springs. I applaud your efforts to restore and protect Kings Bay and other springs along the springs' coast. Your recent efforts to expedite the setting of Minimum Flows and Levels and your partnership with DEP and local governments to leverage as many dollars as possible for springs restoration and protection will make a lasting difference for Florida's families.

Lastly, I want to commend all the districts for continuing to work with the department to ensure consistency across district boundaries while providing the most effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Moving forward, I encourage you and your fellow Governing Board Members to continue your focus on restoration and public works projects, and look for efficiencies that reduce operational expenses. It is critical that we all carefully oversee the citizens' precious tax dollars and maximize their use to best position our state for the future.

Pursuant to Chapter 2012-126, Laws of Florida, I am approving the district's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tentative Budget. I want to thank you and your fellow Governing Board Members for your commitment to serving Floridians and I look forward to working with you during the coming year as we continue to strive for the most efficient and effective manner to protect Florida's water resources together.

Mr. Adams noted that copies of the letter have been placed on the table outside the door of the board room. Since there are no proposed changes to the fiscal year 2013-14 tentative budget as adopted by the Governing Board on September 10, 2013, Mr. Adams requested Ms. Linsbeck to proceed to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item 4. (0:20/05:15)

3. **Budget Overview**

The Board was provided this information in its meeting materials.

4. **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

(05:15/05:59)

5. **Reconciliation of Tentative to Final Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget**

Ms. Linsbeck said there have been no changes to the budget since the tentative budget hearing held September 10, 2013.

6. **Public Comments**

a. **Letters/Resolutions Received**

Mr. Adams noted the District has not received any correspondence from taxpayers this year. On September 23, the District received a budget approval letter from Governor Scott, which was read into the record at the beginning of the hearing. The District has received two calls from taxpayers regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-14.

Letters and resolutions received regarding the final millage rate and budget, if any, since the first public hearing held September 10, 2013, in Tampa, have been compiled into an Exhibit "A" to Agenda Item 6.a. and are hereby incorporated by reference into the public record of this meeting. The budget approval letter from Governor Rick Scott dated September 23, 2013, is included. Copies of this exhibit are available here today and are also 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. No one came forward.
(05:59/07:15)

At General Counsel's request, Mr. Maggard noted that a quorum was present.

7. **Adopt Final Fiscal Year 2013-14 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 13-17
ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND
CERTIFICATION OF LEVY TO THE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISERS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-14**

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. Pressman moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-17, Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Certification of Levy to the County Property Appraisers for Fiscal Year 2013-14, of 0.3818 mill. Mr. Senft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.** (07:15/08:20)

8. **Adopt Final Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 13-18
ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-14**

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. Pressman moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-18, Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, in the amount of \$170,776,482. Mr. Bronson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.** (08:20/09:00)

9. **Introduce All Materials as Composite Exhibit**

Mr. Adams introduced all budget materials as a composite exhibit. He stated that the record should reflect that all materials presented here this afternoon are part of the permanent record of the public hearing. The exhibit includes a list of newspapers publishing notices.

Mr. Adams relinquished the gavel to Chair Beruff. (09:00/09:57)

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Senft moved, seconded by Mr. Pressman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously** and Chair Beruff adjourned the meeting. (09:57/10:05, Video 153:59)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.