

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

SECOND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING FOR THE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2011 ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET

GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 28, 2010, at the District's headquarters in Brooksville. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

Ronald E. Oakley, Chair
Hugh Gramling, Vice Chair
H. Paul Senft, Secretary
Douglas B. Tharp, Treasurer
Jeffrey M. Adams, Member
Neil Combee, Member

Board Members via Phone

Carlos Beruff, Member
Albert G. Joerger, Member
Todd Pressman, Member
Judith C. Whitehead, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

Bryan K. Beswick, Member
Jennifer E. Closshey, Member

Staff Members Present

David L. Moore, Executive Director
William S. Bilenky, General Counsel
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Richard S. Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Eugene A. Schiller, Deputy Executive Director
Bruce C. Wirth, 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
Joyce Morra, Administrative Coordinator, Finance

Board's Recording Secretary

LuAnne Stout, Administrative Coordinator

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. This meeting was broadcast to the District service offices for viewing only.

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley 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 Brooksville; however, there have been numerous opportunities for the public to provide comment via correspondence, facsimile and electronic mail prior to this final hearing.

Ms. Kavouras called the roll noting which Board members were present or teleconferencing (see above). A quorum was present with six members participating in person and four members participating via telephone. (00:00/01:54)

2. Open Public Hearing

Chair Oakley opened the public hearing and turned the gavel over to Mr. Tharp, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Mr. Tharp said today is the second and final public budget hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity to receive public comments prior to adoption of the final millage rates and combined budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. This budget is the result of months of Board and staff development—more than 45 public meetings were held this fiscal year. The budget

development process began back in the fall and will conclude today with the adoption of the final budget.

The District's combine FY2011 budget is \$279.8 million, a decrease of \$19.1 million from the current year budget of \$298.9 million. The budget includes \$161 million of ad valorem revenue (\$104 million for the Districtwide General Fund and \$57 million for the seven Basins combined). This is a decrease in property taxes of \$27 million or 14 percent from FY2010. The decrease is due to the continuing decline of property values in Florida reflecting the state of the economy and the real estate industry, and to reductions in millage rates.

At the conclusion of the first public hearing, the Governing Board adopted tentative millage rates for five of the seven Basin Boards at rates equal to FY2010, as recommended by those Basin Boards. The Hillsborough River Basin recommended its millage rate be lowered from .2421 mill for FY2010 to .2300 mill for FY2011, and the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin lowered its rate from .3200 mill for FY2010 to .2600 mill for FY2011. And, the Governing Board also adopted a reduced General Fund millage rate from .3866 mill for FY2010 to .3770 mill for FY2011. All tentative millage rates are well below the rolled-back rates for FY2011.

Mr. Tharp noted that, on September 16, the District received a letter from Governor Charlie Crist indicating his approval of the District's tentative budget for FY2011. The Governor applauded the District's efforts to hold property taxes constant for three years in a row even though this has resulted in a decrease in District revenues, and he commended the Governing Board's support of the tax rate reduction recommendations by the Hillsborough River and Pinellas-Anclote River Basins, and for reducing the District's General Fund Districtwide millage. The Governor also expressed his appreciation for the great work and accomplishments achieved by the District in its efforts to protect Florida's wonderful natural resources for the benefit of visitors, businesses, residents, and the environment. Copies of the letter were distributed to all Governing Board members, and available for the public at this hearing and on the District's web site at www.watmatters.org.

In summary, Mr. Tharp said he believe this budget reflects the District's goal of providing cost-effective quality services on a pay-as-you-go basis, without incurring debt, while protecting and enhancing the public's water resources. All budgeted projects and programs are dedicated to making significant progress in accomplishing the essential highest priority service and project goals core to the mission of the District. Finally, Mr. Tharp personally thanked the Governing and Basin Board members, as well as District staff, for their participation and the special efforts required to develop the District's FY2011 budget. (01:54/06:45)

3. **Budget Overview**

Mr. Schiller reviewed information showing the District's FY2011 tentative budget as it will be adopted today by Fund. This includes the Districtwide General Fund budget which is overseen by the Governing Board, and the seven separate Basin budgets, which are developed by the local Basin Boards. The Basin millage rates and budgets were approved by the Basin Boards and recommended to the Governing Board for adoption. The total District budget is \$279.8 million which is \$19.1 million below the FY2010 budget. This decrease is primarily due to \$27.1 million reduction in ad valorem property tax revenue; \$7.8 million reduction in state funding; and offset by a \$19.3 million increase in balances available from prior years. This increase is primarily due to the cancellation of three major cooperative funding projects by the City of Tampa. The budget has not changed since it was adopted by this Board as the District's tentative FY2011 budget at the first public hearing held on September 14, 2010. (06:45/08:24)

4. **Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, the Rolled-Back Rates, the Percentage Decreases, and the Millage Rates to be Levied for FY2011**

Ms. Pilcher presented the required public announcement of the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rates, the percentage of tax decrease below the rolled-back rates, and the millage

rates to be levied for FY2011, and read into the record as required for the District and each of the seven Basins. It was noted that the Governing Board serves as the Board for the Green Swamp Basin; therefore, there is no separate Basin millage for the Green Swamp Basin.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF TAX DECREASE BELOW ROLLED-BACK RATE	MILLAGE RATE
Districtwide	0.4372	-13.77%	0.3770
Alafia River Basin	0.2455	-11.89%	0.2163
Hillsborough River Basin	0.2752	-16.42%	0.2300
Coastal Rivers Basin	0.2092	-09.89%	0.1885
Pinellas-Anclote River Basin	0.3565	-27.07%	0.2600
Withlacoochee River Basin	0.2553	-09.60%	0.2308
Peace River Basin	0.2131	-14.27%	0.1827
Manasota Basin	0.1678	-11.56%	0.1484

(08:24/10:44)

5. **Final FY2011 Budget**

a. **Reconciliation of Tentative to Final FY2011 Budget**

Ms. Pilcher said that page five of the handout contains the reconciliation of the tentative budget to the final budget for FY2011. There were no changes.

b. **TRIM Budget Summary**

Ms. Pilcher stated that this item is on page six of the handout. This is the "Truth in Millage" (TRIM) budget summary that is used to prepare the newspaper advertisement and was provided for information only. (10:44/11:20)

6. **Public Comments**

a. **Letters/Resolutions Received**

Mr. Tharp said the District has received no correspondence from taxpayers in response to receiving their 2010 Notice of Proposed Property Taxes. Staff has received three telephone calls since the first public hearing for a total of 24 telephone calls which dealt with a variety of issues relating to their Notice of Proposed Property Taxes. All materials were introduced as a composite exhibit for the permanent record of the public hearing. (11:20/11:55)

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

Mr. Tharp requested that anyone wishing to address the budget come forward.

Mr. Don Ross, representing EarthBalance, said he thanked the Board for lowering the millage. He then addressed the issue of mitigation which he spoke about previously before the Board. He noted he will present the policy issue at the November Board meeting. (11:55/13:55)

7. **Adopt Final FY2011 Millage Rates**

The final FY2011 millage rates as publicly announced in Agenda Item 4 are as follows:

Districtwide General Fund	0.3770
Alafia River Basin	0.2163
Hillsborough River Basin	0.2300
Coastal Rivers Basin	0.1885
Pinellas-Anclote River Basin	0.2600
Withlacoochee River Basin	0.2308
Peace River Basin	0.1827
Manasota Basin	0.1484

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 10-15

**ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATES AND
CERTIFICATION OF LEVIES TO THE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISERS
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

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. Combee moved, seconded by Mr. Gramling, to adopt Resolution No. 10-15 for adoption of final millage rates for FY2011 as publicly announced. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. (13:55/15:15)**

8. **Adopt Final FY2011 Budget**

The final FY2011 budget in the amount of \$279,807,363 is summarized in the handout. **Mr. Combee moved, seconded by Mr. Senft, to approve**

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 10-16

ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

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 a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. (15:15/16:10)

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

Mr. Tharp introduced all budget materials as a composite exhibit. He stated that the record should reflect that all materials presented here this afternoon, including the notebooks, are part of the permanent record of the public hearing.

10. **Adjournment**

Mr. Tharp requested a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Combee moved, seconded by Chair Oakley, to adjourn the final FY2011 public budget hearing. The motion carried. (16:10/16:53)**

The public hearing was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.