



**GOVERNING BOARD
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2026
MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET**

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met at 5:01 p.m. on September 23, 2025, at the Tampa Office. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members Present

John Mitten, Chair
Jack Bispham, Vice Chair
Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary
John Hall, Treasurer
Kelly S. Rice, Member*
Michelle Williamson, Member
James Holton, Member*
Dustin Rowland, Member
Nancy H. Watkins, Member
Joshua Gamblin, Member

*Attended via electronic media

Board Members Absent

Robert Stern, Member
James. L. Turner, Member

Staff Members

Brian J. Armstrong, Executive Director
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director
Chris Tumminia, General Counsel
Brian Werthmiller, Inspector General
Jennette Seachrist, Division Director
Michelle Hopkins, Division Director
Brian Starford, Division Director
Brandon Baldwin, Division Director
Michelle Weaver, Division Director
Melisa Lowe, Bureau Chief
Andrea Shamblin, Manager

Administrative Support

Virginia Singer, Manager
Lori Manuel, Administrative Coordinator

Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's website at Watermatters.org.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Tentative Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Service Budget Public Hearing Minutes

Chair John Mitten called the meeting to order.

Chair Mitten provided information to members of the public wishing to address the Governing Board concerning any item listed on the agenda or any item that does not appear on the agenda. He stated that comments would be limited to three minutes per speaker, Chair Mitten also requested that several individuals wishing to speak on the same issue/topic designate a spokesperson.

Chair Mitten introduced each member of the Governing Board and staff present at the dais (this served as roll call). A quorum was confirmed.

Chair Mitten requested a motion to approve the minutes from September 9, 2025, Tentative Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Millage Rate and Annual Service Budget Public Hearing.

A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:02:30)

2. Opening Comments

Chair Mitten stated the purpose of this final Truth in Millage (TRIM) public hearing was to provide an opportunity for the public to speak and ask questions prior to the Governing Board's adoption of a final millage rate and budget for FY2026.

A Request to Speak card was received.

Mr. David Ballard Geddis, Jr., spoke regarding ad valorem and levies.

3. Budget Overview

Chair Mitten stated the FY2026 budget totaled \$256.2 million compared to \$231.6 million for the adopted FY2025 budget; and continues to provide a significant level of capital investment in our region to ensure the District's core mission is achieved.

4. Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage of Increase Over Rolled-Back Rate, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Baldwin, Business and Information Technology Services Division Director, presented the required public announcement of the name of the taxing authority, the rolled-back rate, the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate, and the millage rate to be levied for FY2026 and read into the record as required for the District.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE	Final MILLAGE RATE
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.1831mill	0.0%	0.1831 mill

5. Reconciliation of Tentative to Final Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Mr. Baldwin stated there have been no changes to the FY2026 budget since the tentative budget was adopted at the first public hearing on September 9.

6. Public Comments

a. Letters/Resolutions Received

Chair Mitten stated that responses to the letters received regarding the tentative millage rate and budget, and letters and resolutions received regarding the final millage rate and budget since the first public hearing, if any, have been compiled into Appendix "C" of the public hearing materials and are hereby incorporated by reference into the public record of this meeting. He stated copies of this Appendix are available upon request.

b. Persons Wishing to Address the Board

No Request to Speak cards were received.

7. **Adopt Final Fiscal Year 2026 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESOLUTION
NO. 25-11
ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

This resolution is made as 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. 25-11 Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Certification of Levy to the County Property Appraisers for Fiscal Year 2026, of 0.1831 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:11:10)

8. **Adopt Final Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESOLUTION
NO. 25-12
ADOPTION OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

This resolution is made as 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. 25-12 Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, in the amount of \$256,247,665 which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:11:42)

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

Chair Mitten stated the record will reflect all materials presented today are part of the permanent record of the public hearing.

10. **Adjournment**

Chair Mitten adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.