

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2021 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET

#### GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

**Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held through electronic media to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.**

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 8, 2020 at the Brooksville Office. The following persons were in attendance:

#### Board Members Present

Kelly Rice, Chair  
Joel, Schleicher, Vice Chair\*  
Rebecca Smith, Ph.D., Secretary\*  
James Murphy, Treasurer\*  
Jack Bispham, Member\*  
Roger Germann, Member\*  
Seth Weightman, Member\*

\*Attended via electronic media

#### Staff Members Present

Brian Armstrong, Executive Director  
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director  
Karen West, General Counsel  
John J. Campbell, Division Director  
Jennette Seachrist, Division Director  
Brian Starford, Division Director  
Michael Molligan, Division Director  
Michelle Hopkins, Division Director

#### Board Administrative Support

Virginia Singer, Board & Executive Services Manager  
Lori Manuel, Administrative Assistant

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](http://www.WaterMatters.org)).

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Rice called the meeting to order and led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Rice 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. Chair Rice stated that comments would be limited to three minutes per speaker, and, when appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the chair. He also requested that several individuals wishing to speak on the same issue/topic designate a spokesperson.

At this time, the meeting was recessed to allow for communication with any members of the public who wished to provide input. (Audio – 00:02:34)

Chair Rice reconvened the meeting. He introduced the other members of the Board. This served as roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

Chair Rice turned the gavel over to Treasurer Murphy.

#### **2. Opening Comments**

Treasurer Murphy stated 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) 2021. A second public hearing will be held, through electronic media, on September 22, 2020, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget.

Treasurer Murphy stated the FY2021 budget was developed under the guidelines previously established by the Executive Office of the Governor and Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and in line with the Governor's initiative to restore springs, reduce pollution, and ensure there are adequate water supplies to meet growing demands. He stated this was accomplished without incurring any debt, while achieving the Governing Board's fiscal goals.

Treasurer Murphy stated the FY2021 tentative budget totals \$183.5 million compared to \$202.7 million for the FY2020 adopted budget; and continues a significant level of capital investment in our region to ensure the District's core mission is achieved. He stated these investments will continue to protect our water resources, spur the economy, and create jobs. Treasurer Murphy stated the projects portion of the budget represents \$103.4 million of the total budget.

Treasurer Murphy expressed the District's gratitude to Governor DeSantis, the FDEP, and the legislature for state appropriations.

Treasurer Murphy stated the District did not receive any written comments, from the chairs of legislative committee or subcommittees, which were due by September 5.

**3. Budget Overview**

Mr. John Campbell, Management Services director, outlined changes that occurred to the budget since the July 28, 2020 Governing Board meeting. He stated these changes were approved at the August 25 Governing Board meeting. Mr. Campbell stated the overall budget increased by \$4.420 million. The first change included \$4.195 million in funding from the FDEP for the Weeki Wachee River Channel Restoration project. The second change involved an increase of \$225,000 for the Pasco County River Landing Reclaimed Water Transmission CFI project. The total project cost of \$3,386,600 remains the same; however, \$450,000 of Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund dollars will be included. This will be offset by a reduction of \$225,000 in the District's share of the project for a net increase to the budget of \$225,000. Based on CFI policy, any state appropriations will be shared equally between the District and the cooperator.

Mr. Campbell provided two-year comparisons of the expenditure budget by category and program, and a two-year comparison of the revenue budget by source. Mr. Campbell also outlined the projected resources available as of October 1, 2020.

**4. Public Announcement of the Name of the Taxing Authority, Rolled-Back Rate, Percentage Increase Over Rolled-Back Rate, and Millage Rate to be Levied for Fiscal Year 2021**

Mr. Campbell 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 FY2021 and read into the record as required for the District.

TAXING AUTHORITY	ROLLED-BACK RATE	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE	TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE
Southwest Florida Water Management District	0.2669 mill	0.0%	0.2669 mill

**5. Public Comments**

**a. Letters/Resolutions Received**

Treasurer Murphy noted that letters and resolutions received regarding the tentative millage rate and budget, if any, have been compiled into an Appendix "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**

Treasurer Murphy stated that Request to Speak cards were received.  
Mr. Burt Eno submitted a Request to Speak card but did not speak.

Mr. Paul Marraffino, representing Rainbow River Conservation, expressed concern for the lack of board member representation for Marion County.

Mr. David Ballard Geddes spoke in opposition of a water district levy.

Ms. Maxine Connor expressed concern for vacant board member seats and the lack of representation for the scientific and conservation community.

**6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2021 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 20-11  
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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.

Vice Chair Schleicher stated he would like to see further reductions in the millage rate.

**A motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 20-11, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2021, of 0.2669 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio - 00:24:48)**

**7. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 20-12  
ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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. 20-12, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, in the amount of \$183,494,869, which was seconded. The motion carried with six in favor and one opposed. Vice Chair Schleicher stated his opposition is based on fiscal concerns associated with any new expenditures due to the uncertain economic impacts. (Audio: 00:26:50)**

**8. Announcement of Second and Final Public Hearing**

Treasurer Murphy announced the second public hearing will be held on via electronic media on September 22, 2020 at 5:01 p.m. Final action on the FY2021 budget will be taken at that time.

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary

Chair