

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2020 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET

#### GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:01 p.m. on September 17, 2019 at the Tampa Office. The following persons were present:

#### Board Members Present

Mark Taylor, Chair \* via phone  
Michelle Williamson, Vice Chair  
Joel Schleicher, Secretary \*via phone  
Kelly S. Rice, Treasurer \*via phone  
Rebecca Smith, Ph.D., \*via phone  
James Murphy, Member\*via phone  
Roger Germann, Member \*via phone

#### Staff Members Present

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

#### Board Administrative Support

Caroline Browning, Board & Executive Services Manager  
Lori Manuel, Administrative Assistant

A list of others 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](http://www.WaterMatters.org)).

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

Vice Chair Williamson called the meeting to order, reconvening the public hearing that was originally scheduled for September 10, 2019 but recessed due to a lack of quorum.

Ms. Caroline Browning, Board and Executive Services manager, administered the Oath of Office for Board Members Kelly Rice and Roger Germann.

Ms. Browning stated that Secretary Schleicher asked that the public hearing be recessed and reconvened at 6:01 p.m., to allow for his participation.

Vice Chair Williamson asked if any Request to Speak cards were received. There were none.

**A motion was made to recess the public hearing until 6:01 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** (Audio – 00:01:50)

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

Vice Chair Williamson reconvened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. She stated this meeting is being conducted using communications media technology to permit maximum participation of Governing Board members.

Ms. Browning called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

Vice Chair Williamson then led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Vice Chair Williamson 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. 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. Manuel. Members of the public will be called on at the appropriate time during the meeting and will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

**2. Opening Comments**

Vice Chair Williamson 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) 2020. A second public hearing will be held on September 24, 2019, at this Tampa office, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget.

Vice Chair Williamson stated this budget was developed based on current fiscal goals to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region's water resources. The FY2020 tentative budget is \$198.7 million compared to \$176.3 million for the FY2019 adopted budget.

Vice Chair Williamson stated the projects portion of the budget represents \$119.8 million. This includes \$77.4 million for Cooperative Funding Initiative projects and District grants. This includes \$20.1 million for protection and restoration of springs projects.

The District's combined budget for Outreach and District Management & Administration programs represents 6.9 percent of the FY2020 total budget. This is well below the 15 percent threshold requiring Legislative Budget Commission approval.

The budget includes \$113.2 million in ad valorem property tax revenue based on a proposed millage rate equal to the rolled-back rate of 0.2801 mill. This millage rate is more than 5.2 percent lower than the current fiscal year millage rate of 0.2955 mill. The rolled-back rate is the rate that would give us the same amount of revenue as the current year plus taxes on any new construction.

Vice Chair Williamson stated the District has not received any written comments, from the chairs of legislative committee or subcommittees, due by September 5.

Vice Chair Williamson stated the District's gratitude to Governor DeSantis, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the legislature for state appropriations of \$11.75 million for Springs Initiatives and \$2.25 million for land management activities.

**3. Budget Overview**

Mr. Campbell noted that there were no changes to the budget since the July 23, 2019 Governing Board Meeting and offered to provide an overview of the FY2020 budget if requested. No member requested the overview Mr. Campbell then moved to the required portion of the hearing.

Treasurer Schleicher stated he would like further reduction in the mileage rate and would like long-term debt to be matched with long-term expenditures.

**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 2020**

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 fiscal year 2020 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	0.2801 mill	0.0%	0.2801 mill

**5. Public Comments**

**a. Letters/Resolutions Received**

Vice Chair Williamson 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**

Vice Chair Williamson stated that no Request to Speak cards were received.

**6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2020 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-11**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020**

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. 19-11, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2020, of 0.2801 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried with six in favor and one opposed. (Audio - 00:11:44)**

**7. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-12**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020**

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. 19-12, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, in the amount of \$198,665,002, which was seconded. The motion carried with six in favor and one opposed. (Audio: 00:12:25)**

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

Vice Chair Williamson announced the second public hearing will be held on September 24, 2019 at 5:01 p.m., at the District's Tampa Office. Final action on the FY2020 budget will be taken at that time.

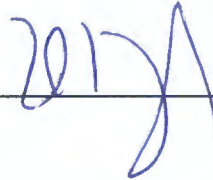


**9. Adjournment**

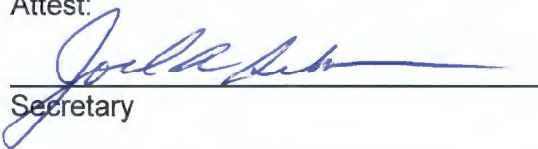
There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously,** and Vice Chair Williamson adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Chair



Attest:

  
Secretary