

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2018 MILLAGE RATE AND ANNUAL SERVICE BUDGET AND OTHER BUSINESS MEETING

#### GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met at 5:11 p.m. on September 26, 2017 at the Tampa Office. The following persons were present:

#### Board Members Present

Randall S. Maggard, Chair  
Jeffrey M. Adams, Vice Chair  
Bryan K. Beswick, Secretary  
Ed Armstrong, Treasurer  
H. Paul Senft, Member  
Michael A. Babb, Member  
Kelly S. Rice, Member  
John Henslick, Member  
Michelle Williamson, Member  
Mark Taylor, Member  
Joel Schleicher, Member  
Rebecca Smith, Member  
James G. Murphy, Member

#### Staff Members Present

Brian Armstrong, Executive Director  
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director  
Karen West, General Counsel  
Michael Molligan, Division Director  
Alba E. Más, Division Director  
Kenneth L. Frink, Division Director  
John J. Campbell, Division Director  
Mike Cacioppo, Lead Budget Analyst  
Cara S. Martin, Board & Executive Services Manager

#### Recorded by:

Dennis Cockrell, Administrative Assistant

A list of others present 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**

Chair Maggard called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing. This meeting is being conducted using communications media technology in order to permit maximum participation of Governing Board members.

Ms. Martin called the roll and noted a quorum was present. Chair Maggard then led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chair Maggard 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 Mr. Cockrell. Members of the public will be called on at the appropriate time during the meeting and will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Chair Maggard relinquished the gavel to Mr. Ed Armstrong, Governing Board Treasurer and Chair of the Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee.

## **2. Opening Comments**

Treasurer Armstrong 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) 2018. A second public hearing will be held on September 30, 2017, prior to adoption of the final millage rate and budget, and which will also to be held at the Tampa Office.

Treasurer Armstrong said this budget was developed based on current fiscal goals to ensure the long-term sustainability of our region's water resources. The FY2018 tentative budget is \$183.7 million compared to \$180.1 million for the FY2017 adopted budget.

Treasurer Armstrong stated the non-recurring or projects portion of the budget represents \$107.4 million. This includes \$79.7 million for Cooperative Funding Initiative projects and District grants, which leveraged with its partners, will result in a total regional investment of over \$151 million for sustainable alternative water supply development and other water resource management projects.

This budget also includes, \$8.6 million for springs protection, leveraged with an additional \$2.1 million from local cooperators, resulting in \$10.7 million investment for coastal springs system.

The District's combined budget for Outreach and District Management & Administration programs represents 7 percent of the FY2018 total budget. This is well below the 15 percent threshold requiring Legislative Budget Commission approval.

The tentative budget includes \$108.1 million in ad valorem property tax revenue. This is based on reducing the millage rate from 0.3317 mill to 0.3131 mill, which is a reduction of over 5.6 percent. This millage rate is at the rolled-back millage rate. The rolled-back rate is the millage rate that would give the District the same amount of revenue as the current year, plus taxes on new construction. Over the last 8 years the millage rate has been reduced 48 percent to help reduce the tax burden for Florida residents. The budget also includes state funding of \$4.25 million for Springs Initiatives and \$2.25 million for land management activities.

Treasurer Armstrong stated the District extends its gratitude to Governor Scott, Department of Environmental Protection and the Legislature for these state appropriations.

The District has not received any written comments from the chairs of legislative committee or subcommittees due by September 5. There have been no proposed changes to the FY2018 budget as last presented to the Governing Board on August 29, 2017.

Treasurer Armstrong introduced Mr. John Campbell, Management Services Director, who proceeded to the required portion of the hearing beginning with agenda item number 3.

## **3. Budget Overview**

Mr. Campbell, noted that there were no changes to the budget since the August 29, 2017 Governing Board Meeting, and offered to provide an overview of the FY2018 budget if requested. No member requested the overview so at this point Mr. Campbell then moved to the required portion of the hearing.



**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 2018**

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 2018, 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	0.3131 mill	0.0%	0.3131 mill

**5. Public Comments**

**a. Letters/Resolutions Received**

Treasurer Armstrong noted the 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 Armstrong stated a *Request to Speak* was received.

Mr. David Ballard Geddis, Jr., spoke against District ad valorem taxation.

**6. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2018 Millage Rate**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 17-11**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

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. 17-11, Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2018, of 0.3131 mill, which was seconded. The motion carried with 12 votes in favor and one against. (Audio 00:10:55)**

**7. Adopt Tentative Fiscal Year 2018 Budget**

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 17-12**

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

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. 17-12, Adoption of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, in the amount of \$183,700,506 which was seconded. The motion carried unanimously. (00:11:50)**

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

Treasurer Armstrong announced the second public hearing will be held on September 30, 2017 at 9:30 a.m., at the District's Tampa Office. Final action on the FY 2018 budget will be taken at that time.

Treasurer Armstrong relinquished the gavel to Chair Maggard.

**9. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair



Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Byron Berwick*

*The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Office Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4703; or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).*