



South Florida Water Management District

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE & FINAL BUDGET MINUTES

September 8, 2016

5:15 PM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Daniel O'Keefe	Chair	Remote	
Kevin Powers	Vice Chair	Present	
Sam Accursio		Remote	
Rick Barber		Remote	
Federico Fernandez		Remote	
Clarke Harlow		Remote	
Mitch Hutchcraft		Remote	
James J. Moran		Present	
Melanie Peterson		Present	

1. Call to Order - Dan O'Keefe, Chairman, Governing Board

Vice Chairman Powers called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. As several Governing Board members participated by teleconference, Mr. Powers did a roll call. In attendance by phone: Mr. O'Keefe, Mr. Accursio, Mr. Barber, Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Harlow, and Mr. Hutchcraft. Attending in person at District headquarters: Mr. Moran, Mr. Powers and Ms. Peterson.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Dan O'Keefe, Chairman, Governing Board

Ms. Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions - Tia Barnett, Director, Board & Executive Services

Ms. Barnett stated that there were no revisions to the agenda.

4. Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 Budget Presentation

Ms. Bradshaw provided a presentation on the tentative millage rates and tentative budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Ms. Bradshaw reviewed the rolled back rates and stated the tentative budget for approval was \$726,245,976.

Millage Levy	Fiscal Year 2016-17 Final Millage Rate at the Rolled-Back Rate	Fiscal Year 2016-17 Rolled-Back Rate Approved July & September by Governing Board	% Change from Rolled-Back Rates
District-wide	0.1359	0.1359	0.00%
Okeechobee Basin	0.1477	0.1477	0.00%
Everglades Construction Project	0.0471	0.0471	0.00%
Big Cypress Basin	0.1336	0.1336	0.00%

Board Comment

In response to a question from Mr. Moran, Mr. Accardo stated that the 298 Districts are non ad valorem assessments.

In response to a follow-up question from Mr. Moran, Mr. Accardo stated that SFWMD is able to grant financial considerations to a 298 District after the resolution is adopted under the budget being proposed.

Mr. Hutchcraft commented on the consideration of payment to the 298 Districts and supports a review of each District to see what is appropriate and in the instances where the SFWMD receives cost avoidance, direct operational benefits or where there are contractual obligations payment should be made.

Public Comment

Charles Schoech, representing Gladeview, Troup, et al, expressed concern regarding the 298 Districts payment from the SFWMD, the lack of notification of the non-payment and the effect on the 298 Districts fiscal year 2017 budget(s). Mr. Schoech requested the SFWMD include funding these payments in the SFWMD's fiscal year 2017 budget.

Jeff Kurtz, Pine Tree Water Control District, outlined the position of the 298 District, the effect of the non-payment to Pine Tree Water Control District and expressed concern with the District's position of non-payment and requested the Board defer the non-payment and continue discussions with the 298 Districts' representatives.

Bob Higgins, Higgins Engineering, representing multiple 298 Districts, expressed concern regarding the lack of funding for payment to the 298 Districts in the SFWMD's fiscal year 2017 budget and does not believe the payment to the 298 Districts should be considered ad valorem.

Mary Viator, Caldwell Pacetti Law firm, representing multiple 298 Districts, commented concern regarding the lack of funding for payment to the 298 Districts in the SFWMD's fiscal year 2017 budget, does not believe the payment to the 298 Districts should be considered ad valorem and read a section of Florida Statutes. Ms. Viator further expressed the legal opinion of the 298 Districts.

Laura Reynolds, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, discussed the lack of funding during emergency situations.

5. **Resolution No. 2016 - 0921 Adopt the Tentative Millage Rates for the South Florida Water Management District (0.1359 mill), the Okeechobee Basin (0.1477 mill) of the South Florida Water Management District, and the Everglades Construction Project (0.0471 mill) within the Okeechobee Basin for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Administrative Services, staff contact, Dorothy Bradshaw, ext. 2823)**

Ms. Bradshaw presented the Okeechobee Basin tentative millage rate.

<u>Okeechobee Basin</u>	<u>Millage Rates</u>
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District-at-Large	0.1359
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Okeechobee Basin	0.1477
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<u>Everglades Construction Project</u>	<u>0.0471</u>
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Total Combined Millage Rate	0.3307
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Represents \$33.07 per \$100,000 of taxable value compared to fiscal year 2015-16 adopted rate which was \$35.51 per \$100,000 of taxable value.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James J. Moran
SECONDER:	Melanie Peterson
AYES:	O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson

6. **Resolution No. 2016 - 0922 Adopt the Tentative Millage Rates for the South Florida Water Management District (0.1359 mill) and the Big Cypress Basin (0.1336 mill) of the South Florida Water Management District for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Administrative Services, staff contact, Dorothy Bradshaw, ext. 2383)**

Ms. Bradshaw presented the Big Cypress Basin tentative millage rate.

<u>Big Cypress Basin</u>	<u>Millage Rates</u>
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District-at-Large	0.1359
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<u>Big Cypress Basin</u>	<u>0.1336</u>
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Total Combined Millage Rate	0.2695
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Represents \$26.95 per \$100,000 of taxable value compared to Fiscal Year 2015-16 adopted rate which was \$28.88 per \$100,000 of taxable value.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rick Barber
SECONDER: James J. Moran
AYES: O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson

7. **Resolution No. 2016 - 0924 Approve the Everglades Agricultural Privilege Tax; providing the disposition of applications for classification as vegetable acreage; applying the deferral of agricultural privilege taxes for the 1996, 2000 and 2016 vegetable classified acreage; approving and certifying the Everglades Agricultural Privilege Tax Roll (Administrative Services, staff contact, Dorothy Bradshaw, ext. 2823)**

Ms. Bradshaw presented the Everglades Agricultural Privilege tax role and deferral.

Total Taxable Acres 456,308.65	\$11,407,716
Total New Deferral Acres 4,048.03	(\$101,201)
Total Gross Tax Revenue	\$11,306,515
Less: Budgeted Discount	(\$706,515)
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budgeted Revenue	\$10,600,000

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Melanie Peterson
SECONDER: James J. Moran
AYES: O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson

8. **Resolution No. 2016 - 0925 Approve and certify the C-139 Agricultural Privilege Tax Roll (Administrative Services, staff contact, Dorothy Bradshaw, ext. 2823)**

Ms. Bradshaw presented the C-139 Basin Everglades Agricultural Privilege tax role and deferral.

Number of Vegetable Applications:	0
Total Ag. Privilege Taxes Per Acre	\$1.80
Total Agricultural Acres	128,067.25
Total Gross Tax Revenue	\$230,521.00
Less: Budgeted Discount	(\$15,521.00)
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budgeted Revenue	\$215,000.00

RESULT: ADOPTED [8 TO 0]
MOVER: James J. Moran
SECONDER: Melanie Peterson
AYES: O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson

9. **Resolution No. 2016 - 0923 Adopt a Tentative Budget of \$726,245,976 for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Administrative Services, staff contact, Dorothy Bradshaw, ext. 2383)**

Ms. Bradshaw stated that no legislative comments have been received to date and the Governor's Office and Legislative Budget Commission's deadline to make comments is September 13th.

Ms. Bradshaw and Mr. Powers recognized the budget staff for their dedication and hard work.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James J. Moran
SECONDER:	Melanie Peterson
AYES:	O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Powers adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Melanie Peterson
SECONDER:	James J. Moran
AYES:	O'Keefe, Powers, Accursio, Barber, Fernandez, Harlow, Hutchcraft, Moran, Peterson



Dan O'Keefe, Chairman
Governing Board
South Florida Water Management District



Haley Koptak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District