

AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
1ST PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGET

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

5:05 p.m., Tuesday
September 9, 2014

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

1. Call to order and roll call.
2. Explanation of purpose of public hearing which is to adopt a proposed millage rate and tentative budget.
3. Presentation of Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget.
4. Board discussion of the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 of 0.4141, the rolled-back millage rate percent change of 0.05%, and a Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget of \$33,429,287.
5. Comments and questions from the general public.
6. **Adoption of proposed millage rate of 0.4141.**
Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt the proposed millage rate of 0.4141 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.
7. **Adoption of Tentative Budget of \$33,429,287.**
Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt the Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget of \$33,429,287.
8. Announcements.
 - September 23, 2014, 5:05 p.m. will be the Final Public Hearing on FY 2014-2015 Budget at the District Headquarters.
9. Adjournment.

Note:

The above represents the agenda for the September 2014 Governing Board 1st Public Hearing on the FY2014-2015 Budget for the Suwannee River Water Management District. This agenda may be revised under the direction of the Board Chair.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Ann Shortelle, Ph.D., Executive Director

DATE: August 29, 2014

RE: Adoption of Proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt a proposed millage rate of 0.4141 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and adopt a Tentative Budget of \$33,429,287 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

BACKGROUND

At the July 8, 2014 Governing Board Meeting the Board approved a Tentative Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 Budget of \$24,537,387 and a proposed roll-back millage rate of 0.4141. On July 25, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notified the District that subject to Joint Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) approval that the District will be awarded a total of \$8,123,660 for springs projects. At the August 12, 2014 Governing Board Meeting the Board approved a Tentative FY 2014-2015 Budget of \$33,429,287.

The Tentative FY 2014-2015 Budget has been developed in accordance with the budget guidelines set forth by the Governing Board. Also, staff has worked in cooperation with the Governor's Office and Legislature to ensure adequate fiscal resources are available to effectively implement our core mission. This budget was developed in keeping with statutory provisions and direction provided by the Governor's Office, the Florida Legislature, and the DEP. Approximately, 64% of the budget is allocated to springs protection and restoration.

The following is a summary of the Tentative FY 2014-2015 Budget and program highlights.

Budget Summary:

The FY 2014-2015 Tentative Budget represents a standardized approach to budgeting and fiscal responsibility. It reflects the District's effort to prudently address core mission responsibilities that consist of water quality, water supply, flood protection, and natural systems in accordance with Governing Board priorities, Legislative directives, adopted Minimum Flows and Levels schedule, the District's 2010 Water Supply Assessment, and the District's Strategic Plan.

The FY 2014-2015 Tentative Budget is \$33,429,287 and supports the District's water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems responsibilities. The Tentative Budget proposes to reduce the existing millage rate of 0.4143 to the roll-back rate of 0.4141. The

Tentative Budget includes \$5,581,385 in ad valorem revenue and \$6,986,260 in reserves for agricultural and local government cost share programs for springs protection and restoration, water resource development, water conservation, water quality, and natural systems projects.

The FY 2014-2015 Tentative Budget includes \$18,607,641 in State appropriations for springs and water supply protection and enhancement activities, minimum flows and levels program, water quality improvement projects, land management and natural system protection activities, and regulatory initiatives.

Also, the Tentative Budget includes State grants of \$8,123,660 for springs projects identified by DEP which are subject to the favorable consideration of the LBC as stipulated in the FY 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act line 1645 proviso language and Federal grants of \$1,129,000 for implementation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Risk Map program to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and to reduce future flooding vulnerability.

The fund reserves are consistent with Governmental Accounting Standard Board's budgeting standards. The bulk of the reserve funds will be spent down over a five-year period to support core mission projects and cost-share programs that benefit the citizens and resources of the District.

The Tentative FY 2014-2015 Budget reflects a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) work force of 68 employees and two student intern positions. The District does not have any OPS or contingent worker positions.

Program Highlights:

- Establishing minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for four coastal rivers and their associated priority springs, along with development of prevention or recovery strategies for those water bodies not meeting their MFL;
- Completing the Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement Project that will reduce the City of Lake City's wastewater nutrient loadings to the Ichetucknee River by up to 85 percent;
- Completing the Middle Suwannee River Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project that will rehydrate roughly 1,500 acres of ponds and 4,000 acres of wetlands in Mallory Swamp, enhance flow for springs along the Middle Suwannee River Basin, and recharge the aquifer increasing groundwater supplies helping both agriculture and domestic water users throughout the area;
- Continuation of efforts to improve, update, and enhance the District's commitment to information technology in the form of computing facilities, software and data management tools, Geographic Information Systems, and internet services to the public.

The Tentative FY 2014-2015 Budget will enable the District to protect our water resources for the benefit of our citizens and natural systems while lessening the burden on taxpayers and establishing a high level of public service. The Tentative Budget documents our commitment to implement cost efficiencies and enhance existing programs. We appreciate the input and support of the Governing Board in this process.

The final public hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2014, at 5:05 p.m. at the District's office located at 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, Florida.

SM/rl