

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Christina Green, Budget Manager, Office of Finance
THRU: Timothy Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: July 10, 2023
RE: Tentative Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Millage and Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to:

- 1) Set the tentative millage at the rollback rate of 0.3113.
- 2) Grant staff authority to adjust the rollback rate if final data changes.
- 3) Approve the Tentative Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget of \$71,634,090.
- 4) Authorize staff to make recommended adjustments and corrections to budget.
- 5) Authorize staff to submit the Standard Format Tentative Budget pursuant to section 373.536(5), Florida Statutes.
- 6) Authorize staff to notify the property appraisers of the District's 15 counties that the District proposes to levy a rollback millage rate.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.536(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the District on or before July 15 of each year, to submit for consideration by the Governing Board a tentative budget covering its proposed operation and requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.

The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Tentative Budget is represented as follows:

- Depicts an annual budget of \$71,634,090.
- Separates funds carried forward and reserves.
- Uses fund balance for protecting and preserving water resources.
- Will be submitted for review in accordance with subsection 373.536(5)(d), F.S., by August 1, 2023.

Further refinements of fund allocations and areas of emphasis within the budget may be changed between now and September 12, 2023, as deemed appropriate by the Governing Board, Executive Office of the Governor, and/or the Florida Legislature.

Subsection 200.065(2)(b), F.S., provides that each taxing authority shall advise each county property appraiser in its jurisdiction of its tentative millage rates for publication on Truth-in-Millage (TRIM) notices. The tentative millage rollback rate is 0.3113. The final rate will be based on collective certifications by each county within the District to the Department of Revenue. Should any revised or corrected certifications be received prior to August 1, 2023, the rollback rate and corresponding ad valorem revenue will be adjusted according to these certifications. Any adjustment to the tentative millage will not exceed the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate of 0.3368. The final adopted millage rate that the Governing Board adopts in

September cannot exceed the proposed millage rate without a second mailed notice to property owners.

The District will hold one public hearing on September 12, 2023, at 5:05 p.m. to establish the millage rate and tentatively adopt the FY 2024 budget, and will hold a second public hearing on September 25, 2023, at 5:05 p.m. to establish the millage rate and adopt the FY 2024 budget.

CG/tm

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: July 11, 2023
RE: Draft List of Critical Wetlands

FOR INFORMATION

An overview of the draft list of critical wetlands identified pursuant to the requirements of section 373.036, Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND

As a result of an amendment to section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.), water management districts, in cooperation with local governments, are required to develop a list of critical wetlands to be submitted annually as part of the Strategic Plan.

The statute outlines the following criteria regarding inclusion on the list:

- Ecological value of the wetland, as determined by the physical and biological components of the environmental system
- Effect of the wetland on water quality and flood mitigation
- Ecosystem restoration value of the wetland
- Susceptibility of the wetland to development due to its geographical location or natural aesthetics

Due to the potential for projects related to minimum flows and minimum water levels, as well as current development pressure, the District initially focused on the Waccasassa Basin to evaluate critical wetlands but will expand its evaluation to other parts of the District in future years.

Prior to finalizing the list, the District is required to notify property owners of their inclusion on the list. At any time, owners who do not wish to be included may submit a written request for removal. Prior to the meeting, notification letters were also sent to property owners notifying them of their potential inclusion on the list and the intent to discuss the list at the July Governing Board meeting. Additionally, the District coordinated with Gilchrist and Levy counties regarding the parcel list.

Project Timeline

- June 09, 2023 – Letters sent to project area property owners with the ability to opt out of the list by July 07, 2023, and notification of upcoming Governing Board meetings.
- July 11, 2023 – Present draft list of critical wetlands at Governing Board meeting as an information item
- July 13, 2023 – Final letter to be sent to project area property owners notifying them of the August Governing Board action to approve the final list.
- August 08, 2023 – Present final draft list of critical wetlands as part of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan for Governing Board approval.

KCP/ao
Attachments

Suwannee River Water Management District – DRAFT Critical Wetlands Inventory Analysis

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Suwannee River Water Management District – DRAFT Critical Wetlands Inventory Analysis

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