



Lyle Seigler
Executive Director

September 25, 2025

Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Phone: (850) 539-5999 • Fax: (850) 539-2777

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol PL-01
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: Northwest Florida Water Management District
Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District respectfully submits the District's Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 in accordance with section 373.536, Florida Statutes.

On September 24, 2025, the District's Governing Board adopted a \$110.3 million budget, which uses the rolled-back millage rate for taxpayers while maintaining a focus on priority areas including funding of water quality projects that help maximize nutrient reductions, consistent with Executive Orders 19-12 and 23-06.

The District's budget is built on a foundation of projects that are directly in line with its statutory mission of water quality, water supply, natural systems, and flood protections, including:

- \$45.7 million for springs projects. This funding will enable the District to implement or continue restoration projects for Wakulla Spring, Jackson Blue Spring, Cypress Spring, and springs associated with the Chipola River and Econfinia Creek.
- \$16.8 million for alternative water supply development, water supply development assistance, and water resource development. Alternative water supply development funding includes support for cooperative, multijurisdictional efforts to expand reuse of reclaimed water in northwest Florida. Water resource development activities include water resources evaluations and hydrogeologic investigations, as well as continuing technical assistance for water use efficiency in the Jackson Blue Spring and Chipola River springs groundwater contribution area.
- \$18.1 million for watershed and waterway restoration. This funding will facilitate continued efforts to protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitats through cooperative water quality improvement projects and best management practices. Funded projects include stormwater retrofits benefitting St. Joseph Bay; coastal conditions assessments for Choctawhatchee Bay and St. Andrew Bay; a dedicated assessment of water quality and freshwater inflow in St. Joseph Bay; implementation of a pilot distributed wastewater grant

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Tallahassee

program for impaired waterbodies; and waterway debris removal along select waterbodies impacted by recent hurricanes and tornadoes.

- \$8.4 million for land management and reforestation. This funding will allow the District to develop additional recreational opportunities, maintain and enhance existing recreational sites for increased public use and safety, provide reforestation with prescribed burns and tree planting, and meet land management goals and objectives on District lands in order to protect and enhance the water resources of northwest Florida.
- \$1.9 million for data collection and Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels technical assessments for Jackson Blue Spring; the Floridan aquifer in coastal Bay County; Morrison Spring; and the Shoal River.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the District's FY 2025-26 Budget. If I can be of any assistance or provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lyle Seigler
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc:

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President, Florida Senate
The Honorable Daniel Perez, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Ed Hooper, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jason Brodeur, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
The Honorable Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Lawrence McClure, Chair, House Budget Committee
The Honorable John Snyder, Chair, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable Adam Botana, Chair, Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee
The Honorable Michelle Salzman, Chair, Housing, Agriculture, & Tourism Subcommittee
Executive Office of the Governor
Alexis Lambert, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FY 2025-26 ADOPTED BUDGET BY FUND**

DESCRIPTION	General Fund	Capital Improvement & Lands Acquisition	Special Projects	Lands Management	Regulation	Mitigation	TOTAL
Cash Balances Brought Forward	14,664,825	128,729	3,950,664	2,413,253	4,420,939	4,419,436	29,997,846
<u>ESTIMATED REVENUES:</u>							
TAXES: Millage Per \$1000							
Ad Valorem Taxes .0207	1,766,457	0	2,326,660	0	33,595	0	4,126,712
Federal Grants	0	0	7,289,025	3,049,550	0	0	10,338,575
DEP - Land Acquisition Trust Fund	0	9,951,522	37,894,293	4,926,630	4,422,935	0	57,195,380
Mitigation	0	0	0	0	0	2,024,479	2,024,479
State Funds	0	0	28,066,680	870,000	15,934	0	28,952,614
Local Government Units	0	0	151,423	327	0	0	151,750
Permitting and Licensing	0	0	0	0	655,000	0	655,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	813,798	250,000	428,908	97,460	0	1,590,166
Interfund Transfers	<u>2,515,858</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,954,261</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,540,119</u>
 Total Estimated Revenues, Transfers and Balances	 <u>18,947,140</u>	 <u>10,894,049</u>	 <u>83,883,006</u>	 <u>11,688,668</u>	 <u>9,715,863</u>	 <u>6,443,915</u>	 <u>141,572,641</u>
<u>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:</u>							
Salaries & Benefits	2,947,558	99,534	3,466,518	2,229,139	3,876,854	341,909	12,961,512
Other Personal Services	18,282	0	34,656	228,895	35,264	835	317,932
Contractual Services	371,650	310,991	19,530,231	4,805,200	329,820	1,245,213	26,593,105
Operating Expenses	735,231	1,300	728,179	1,307,376	812,700	84,187	3,668,973
Operating Capital Outlay	38,557	0	109,788	152,853	196,656	278,147	776,001
Fixed Capital Outlay	75,000	10,331,950	0	20,000	0	0	10,426,950
Grants and Aids	0	0	55,507,422	0	0	0	55,507,422
Reserves	10,453,064	128,729	3,748,371	2,413,253	3,617,774	4,419,436	24,780,627
Interfund Transfers	<u>4,307,798</u>	<u>21,545</u>	<u>757,841</u>	<u>531,952</u>	<u>846,795</u>	<u>74,188</u>	<u>6,540,119</u>
 Total Appropriated Expenditures, Transfers and Reserves	 <u>18,947,140</u>	 <u>10,894,049</u>	 <u>83,883,006</u>	 <u>11,688,668</u>	 <u>9,715,863</u>	 <u>6,443,915</u>	 <u>141,572,641</u>



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RESOLUTION NO. 958

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature created the Northwest Florida Water Management District under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the ensuing 2025-2026 fiscal year of the Northwest Florida Water Management District shall extend from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Florida Water Management District is authorized by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, to adopt a budget in accordance with the provisions of Section 200.065, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Florida Water Management District held a Public Hearing as required by Section 200.065, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District has adopted Resolution 957, which establishes the millage-levy for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, programs and projects which are of District benefit will be supported with ad valorem tax revenues and other funding sources as reflected in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget of \$110,251,895.

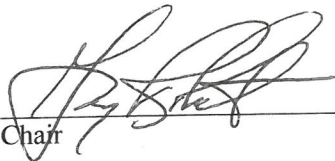
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, that:

1. The Fiscal Year Final 2025-2026 budget be adopted; and
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon the adoption.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 24th day of September 2025, A.D.

Time Adopted 5:10 PM

The Governing Board of the
**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**


Chair

ATTEST:


Secretary-Treasurer



GEORGE ROBERTS
Chair
Panama City

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