

## Meeting Minutes – Final Budget Hearing September 12, 2025

- **Adoption of Final Mileage Rate Resolution:** Brighton, and the Board of Commissioners discussed and unanimously adopted the final mileage rate resolution for the Captiva Erosion Prevention District, setting the rollback rate at 0.3740 mills after inviting public comment and confirming no objections.
  - **Mileage Rate Determination:** John Wade announced that the Captiva Erosion Prevention District would adopt the rollback rate of 0.3740 mills for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with the total budgeted ad valorem tax revenue set at \$642,003, as determined by the CEPD.
  - **Public Comment Process:** John Wade and Brighton invited public comment on the proposed mileage rate, but no members of the public provided input either verbally or via chat, and there was no board debate or further discussion.
  - **Resolution Reading and Adoption:** John Wade read the full resolution into the record, outlining the statutory authority, public notice, and the effective date, and then called for a motion and roll call vote, with all commissioners voting in favor.
- **Approval of Final Budget Resolution:** John Wade, Brighton, and the Board of Commissioners reviewed and unanimously approved the final budget resolution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, confirming the total budget of \$642,003 and noting the absence of public or board debate.
  - **Budget Resolution Presentation:** John Wade presented the final budget resolution for the Captiva Erosion Prevention District, specifying the statutory basis, public notice, and the total appropriations and revenue estimates for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
  - **Public and Board Input:** John Wade invited both commissioners and the public to comment or debate the budget resolution, but no comments or debate were offered.
  - **Formal Adoption:** A motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget resolution as written, and a roll call vote was conducted, resulting in unanimous approval by the board.
- **Discussion of Rauschenberg Estate Acquisition Proposal:** John Wade, Brighton, and the commissioners discussed a proposed resolution to authorize due diligence for the potential acquisition of 22 acres from the Rauschenberg Foundation on Captiva Island, covering the rationale, process, funding strategies, and next steps, with input from multiple commissioners.
  - **Proposal Introduction and Rationale:** John Wade read a cover letter outlining the opportunity to acquire 22 acres from the Rauschenberg Foundation, emphasizing alignment with the district's mission for shoreline and environmental protection, and the potential for public benefit, ecological enhancement, and resilience planning.
  - **Due Diligence Scope and Process:** The proposed resolution would authorize CEPD representatives to initiate due diligence, including environmental and cultural assessments, title review, and a financial feasibility study, with findings to be reported back to the board before any negotiation or purchase commitments.
  - **Funding and Partnership Strategies:** John Wade and commissioners discussed possible funding mechanisms, including a hybrid of public and private sources,

state and federal grants, and public-private partnerships, noting that CEPD alone could not fund the acquisition and that collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders would be necessary.

- **Commissioner Questions and Community Involvement:** Commissioners raised questions about the cost of due diligence, the role of the county, potential conflicts of interest, and the need for transparency and community engagement, with John Wade clarifying that the resolution only authorized preliminary exploration and that a referendum would be required for any tax-based funding.
- **Next Steps and Feedback:** John Wade requested that commissioners review the draft resolution and provide comments before the special meeting scheduled for the following week, with Brighton coordinating input and the district attorney expected to review the document.
- **Commissioner Comments and Administrative Updates:** Commissioners, including Rene Miville and Brighton, provided comments on recent efforts, recommended publishing a project map for public awareness, and discussed the need for a balance sheet and ongoing administrative improvements.
  - **Project Map Publication:** Rene Miville recommended that the newly received project map from Great Lakes be published on the website and distributed to the media to address public inquiries about project timelines and locations, especially for property owners and renters.
  - **Administrative and Financial Updates:** Commissioners discussed the importance of having an up-to-date balance sheet, with Rene noting ongoing efforts to clarify financial positions and John Wade affirming the intent to provide more comprehensive financial reporting in the future.