



## Question

Why did the WWMD Commissioners sneak in a late tax rate increase from \$175 to \$225/year at the very end of the annual meeting in September? Why do I get the feeling you just want more money on top of all the money you already have?

## Answer

Actually, the WWMD board was surprised by the vote to increase the annual riparian owner tax. In fact, the commissioners voted 4-3 **AGAINST** the motion at the annual meeting. However, the WWMD must abide by the vote of the riparian owners which overwhelmingly approved the motion, 50 in favor and 22 opposed.

To provide a little background, the annual tax is for the costs of operation of the WWMD for the coming year. Operations include things like treatments for invasive aquatic plants, engineering and permits for the dredging project, and communications like this one, just to name a few. In fact, the WWMD spends thousands of dollars more than the riparian owners have paid on the management of our waterway. The additional funds needed to balance our budget have been obtained through donations and grants. In 2014-2015 we added significant dollars to our income through these avenues.

During the WWMD public budget planning meetings, in preparation for the annual meeting, the Commissioner's recognized that our annual operating costs would exceed our income. As a Board we voted to hold the tax at \$175/Year and take the deficit from reserves. This was explained at the annual meeting, and one riparian owner proposed the tax increase.

We hope this helps in your understanding of what happened at the annual meeting.

