

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1800 27th Street, Building B
Room B1-501
Vero Beach, Florida*



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, December 13, 2021

1:30 PM

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

David E. Gunter, Chairman: IRSWCD - Seat #2

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chair: IRSWCD - Seat #3

Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer: IRSWCD - Seat #5

Bobby Lindsey, Member: IRSWCD - Seat #4

Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David E. Gunter called meeting to order at 1:36 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: David E. Gunter, Chairman
Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Lindsey, Member

Supervisors attendance

Via Zoom: None

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD

Staff in attendance

Via Zoom: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS
Adel Peña, Environmental Jake Fojtik, Florida Farm Bureau
Specialist III, OAWP - FDACS

Public in Attendance: Rob Bolton, City of Vero Beach
Robert E. Bruce
Jake Fojtik, Florida Farm Bureau
Mike Johannsen, Indian River Neighborhood Association
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities

Public in attendance

Via Zoom: None

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA/EMERGENCY ITEMS:**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. The minutes for November 8, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as written.

Motion: A motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and
Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

B. The minutes for November 8, 2021 Local Working Group Meeting were approved as written.

Motion: A motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded
by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for November 2021 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

Motion: A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Dr. David
L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

- A. Financial Audit for year ending 2021. Package delivered Monday, November 22, 2021 to Patrick Graham with Kmetz, Elwell, Graham and Associates, PLLC.

No Action Taken or Required

- B. IRSWCD Supervisor Seat 1 – Vacant: Board to appoint a new Supervisor until next election - November 2022.

A Motion was made by Vice-Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr., Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox to accept Robert E. Bruce application for “Discussion”.

A discussion ensued among the Board regarding the appointment of Robert E. Bruce as a Supervisor for the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District (IRSWCD) Board.

Motion: A Motion to Table the appointment of a new Supervisor until next meeting was made by Bobby Lindsey. (No Second made.)

David E. Gunter: We have a Motion on the floor that has been “Discussed.” All in favor of appointing Robert E. Bruce as a Supervisor. The signify by saying Aye.

A Motion was made by Vice-Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr., Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox to appoint Robert E. Bruce as a Supervisor. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - David E. Gunter Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr. Vice-Chairman, and Dr. David L. Cox Secretary/Treasurer.

Opposed: 1 - Bobby Lindsey

- C. QuickBooks Desktop Pro Plus 2022 Upgrade: Purchased \$199.99 and installed.

No Action Taken or Required

- D. 2022 Poster Contest Stewardship theme “Healthy Soils: Healthy Life.” Deadline to submit posters: Friday, March 4, 2022.

No Action Taken or Required

- E. SB-1078: Soil and Water Conservation Districts: General Bill by Senator Travis Hutson, District 78 (Flagler, St. Johns Counties and part of Volusia County). Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Abolishing all soil and water conservation districts in this state; transferring the assets and liabilities of such districts, etc. Effective Date: 07/01/2022; Last Action: 11/30/2021 Senate – Filed.

i. **Discussion of Zoom Meeting:**

Need letters from Local: Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s Association, Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, City of Vero Beach. Attach letters with letter from the IRSWCD Board in opposing Senate Bill 1078.

Motion: A motion to send a letter on behalf of the IRSWCD Board and attach the Poster Contest and any other pamphlets IRSWCD makes available to the Public was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM website has Request for Proposals – Five Categories; Deadline January 7, 2022 by 5:00 pm.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** : 19 of 59 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,250,000 over approximately 13,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 12 Active Contracts; 11 eligible applications FY 2022 application.
- ❖ **CSP:** 7 Active Contracts; 8 FY 2022 application.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application; FY deadline: December 30, 2021
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: November – December**
 - 45.5 – Brush Management
- ❖ **Other:** EQIP application filed visits FY 22; CSP renewal application ranking and approval.
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue 2022 EQIP application field visits; Contract Management; Attend FL NRCS Urban Ag subcommittee meeting.

B. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS:

- ❖ Still working on implementation and verifications goal to complete by end of the year.

C. Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture/ UF IFAS Report: No report.

D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:

- ❖ **FDACS:** Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2021-2022; Balance of \$10,917.08 to spend. No new Cost-Share Agreements.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Day: November 30, 2021. Both FCDEA and AFCD visited the Capitol on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Met with the house bill sponsor's office (Senator Travis Hutson, District 7 (Flagler, St. Johns Counties and part of Volusia County). State Representative Keith L. Truenow, District 31 part of Lake and Orange County Sponsored HB 783. Proposed Legislation (SB 1078) that would Abolish Soil and Water Conservation Districts and apparently move their "assets and liabilities" under the Water Management Districts, effective 07/01/2022. NACD 2022 Annual Meeting: February 12 – 16, 2022 Orlando, Florida, Hilton Property at Disney Springs: 1. Florida Dinner – Saturday, February 12, 2022; 2. Tour to Florida State Fair – Sunday, February 13, 2022; \$75.00; max. 100 guests; 3. Tour to strawberry fields – Tuesday, February 15, 2022; visit to Fancy Farms, hosted by the Grooms family; \$75.00; max. 100

guests; 4. Discussion: AFCD and FDACS is concerned about COVID; people in close proximity to one another on a tour bus for over an hour, may not be advisable. NACD 2022 SE – Puerto Rico: NACD Summer Meeting NACD's 2022 Summer Meeting planned for July 16 - 19, 2022. NACD Southeast Region Meeting will be held July 17 - 19, 2022 at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, P.R. FCDEA Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.

❖ AFCD: AFCD workshop for discussion regarding the pending legislation to dissolve Florida's Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Monday, December 13, 2021 @ 12:00 pm.

❖ Office: Prepared documents for Audit and hand delivered to CPA Monday, November 22, 2021. Prepares Poster Contest information and sent to Brenda David, SDIRC on Thursday, December 2, 2021. Will be going to schools in January 2022 to promote contest. Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 22, 2021 through January 4, 2022. Office will re-open on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date