

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, October 5, 2020

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

Shawn P. Elliott, Member: IRSWCD - Seat #1

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 1:32 PM.

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

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD
Jake Fojtik, Environmental Specialist III, Office of
Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS

Public in attendance: None

2. AGENDA REVIEW:

There were no additions/changes to the Agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. The minutes for September 14, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as written

Motion: A motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Shawn P. Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for September 2020 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

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

5. OLD BUSINESS:**A. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Committee Update:**

- i. IRLNEP STEM Meeting held virtual. The IRLNEP Reports are available on the website. Duane De Freese, PhD. Executive Director is very concise and precise in his monthly reports. Chuck Jacoby-SJRWMD Water Quality Report for the North end of the Lagoon. Participates in STEM Committee are not submitting reports at this time. Watching very closely what is happening at the South End; Army Corp has decided to hold off for a little while on release of Lake Okeechobee. Problems in Fort Pierce and C-25, everywhere.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule. (All Meetings scheduled for 2nd Monday of the Month, except October Meeting is the 1st Monday of the Month due to Columbus Day.)

Motion: A motion to accept the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021 as presented was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Shawn P. Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approval of the 2020-2021 Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Budget.

- i. Board reviewed the 2020-2021 County Budget and a discussion was held by Supervisors regarding Staff Assistant II, Linda Caggiano.

Per Dr. David L. Cox; “Linda Caggiano has been superb support for us and we need to go to the mat for our Administrative Assistant.”

David E. Gunter, “Recommend to Phil Matson to elevate from a Staff Assistant II to a Staff Assistant III job description/classification for next year Budget 2021-2022. Every year in Performance Appraisal: Recommendation for Wage Increase: Always put Yes.”

Motion: A motion to recommend to Phillip J. Matson, Director; Community Development Department to elevate Staff Assistant II to a Staff Assistant III job description/classification by Dr. David L. Cox and Second by Robert C. Adair, Jr. with a discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Board reviewed the 2020-2021 Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Budget.

Motion: A motion to accept the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District 2020-2021 Budget as presented was made by Shawn P. Elliott and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **AFCD:** Draft of the 2021 AFCD Strategic Plan for Board to review. The plan will be reviewed and discussed during the 2020 AFCD Annual meeting. The 16th Annual Meeting is November 5 & 6, 2020. Please find a registration form and draft agenda for the 2020 AFCD Annual Meeting. While the meeting is scaled down to a much smaller event this year, there will still be an opportunity for new *supervisor training*, the annual business meeting and a few live and recorded partner reports. Districts are notified by this communication that *Bylaw Amendments will be considered at the Annual Meeting, and this serves as prior notice of that action.* The Proposed Bylaw Amendments are included as part of the AFCD Strategic Plan document. *Please have your Board review them, and let your voting delegates know your wishes.* A major change is to return AFCD to 6 Areas rather than the 4 Areas we currently have, with an Area Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President to be elected at the Area meetings to represent each Area. By Dec 2020, AFCD will have a plan to deal with the legislative threat of eliminating Conservation Districts in Florida.

- i. Discussion held by Supervisors regarding AFCD to return to 6 Areas rather than the current 4 Areas. Soil and Water Conservation Districts should match with the water management district boundaries. IRSWCD is part of St. John's Water Management District not part of the South Florida Water Management District. Very important demarcation
- ii. Supervisor discussion and review of AFCD's proposed By-Laws. AFCD supposed to be the lobbying power at the state level. Since we are a grass roots organization to connect Federal/ Farm Bill with the local producers. Whole idea of what Soil and Water Conservation Districts are from inception. Florida legislation has the SWCD to be eliminated. SWCD are being

Motion: A motion to give feedback/letter to AFCD: 1.) That they consider using the demarcation of the water management district boundaries to use for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Areas. 2.) What is the benefit of paying dues of \$350.00 if AFCD does not lobby on our behalf. 3.) Where do you stand in support of the future for the SWCD in the State of Florida, are you subject to lobbying for the organizations? Are you still assisting and providing and if so, how? Relationship to FDACS? Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to send a letter to State Representative Erin Grall and Senator Debbie Mayfield asking what their position is on SWCD benefits due to State Representative Sabatini wanting to swipe all Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across the state of Florida off the table.

7. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Report:

- ❖ No Report or changes since September 2020.

B. Jake Fojtik, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS

- ❖ New hemp enrollment, implementation and verification projects and Cost-Share.

C. Linda Caggiano, IRSWCD

- ❖ The 2021 Poster Contest and Stewardship week theme is “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities.” Putting together information and flyers that will go out to schools in the next month.
- ❖ Envirothon 2021 – IRLNEP wants to plan competition COVID or not. Aquatics, Forestry, Indian River Lagoon, Soils, Wildlife, and Current Issue: Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions. Still working with Audrey, Okeechobee SWCD, Bess, SL SWCD, and Jennifer, NRCS. *Tentative:* Friday, February 26, 2021; In-person Competition. Next meeting October 15, 2020.

- ❖ FDACS Contract #: 24393 Renewal-Amendment #4 signed 07/02/2020. Pending additional changes. 2020-2021: \$90,00.00 + \$3,237.22 balance from the 2019-2020 Contract. Currently working with Angela Samanie-Weeks on changes.
- ❖ Website and Facebook updated in the past week.
- ❖ County Budget: year-end and new-year processing.
- ❖ Public Depositor Annual Report.
- ❖ State of Florida Annual Financial Report changes for 6/30/2021 to be reviewed
- ❖ Prepare Membership Dues
 - NACD: Membership October 1st - \$775.00
 - FCDEA: Membership October 1st - \$10.00
 - AFCD: Membership October 30th - \$350.00
 - DEO: Special District Fee December 4th - \$175.00
(Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – David needs to sign)
- ❖ Monday, November 9, 2020: IRSWCD Board Meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:38 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date