

# **Indian River County Florida**

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



## **Meeting Minutes – Final**

**Monday, November 9, 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 1:42 PM.

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

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD  
Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS  
Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture Agent & Director  
UF IFAS Indian River County Extension

**Public in attendance:** None

**2. AGENDA REVIEW:**

A. There was an Addition to the Agenda

- i. **Under New Business: Addition of 6. B.:** Indian River Election Office telephone call today wanting to know of any change of Officer positions: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. The minutes for October 5, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as written

**Motion: A motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

B. The Financial Report for October 2020 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

**Motion: A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Shawn Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- i. Per Dr. David L. Cox, there was not an IRLNEP STEM Meeting held in October – No New Report.

B. **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 and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD’s) across the State of Florida off the table.”

- C. 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: A motion to approve the letter to AFCD was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Financial Audit for year ending 2020.** Engagement letter to be signed from Kmetz, Elwell, Graham, PLLC.

**Motion: A motion to approve the Engagement letter from Kmetz, Elwell, Graham, PLLC. as presented was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Indian River Election Office telephone call today wanting to know of any change of Officer positions: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer.**

- i. Board discussed the matter. No changes were made to the current positions of Officers for the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. David E. Gunter to remain Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr. remains the Vice-Chairman, Dr. David L. Cox remains the Secretary/Treasurer.

**Motion: A motion to keep the Officer positions “as is – no changes” was made by Dr. David L. Cox. and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. REPORTS:**

### **A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Report:**

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 19 of 56 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,500,000 over approximately 12,500 acres.
- ❖ EQIP: 11 Active Contracts; November 20, 2020 application deadline.
- ❖ CSP: 4 Active Contracts: 1 renewal applications.
- ❖ ACEP-WRE: FY 2020 no application selected for Indian River Co.
- ❖ Conservation Applications: September – November:
  - Lambeth Citrus – Irrigation Water Management.
  - Estes Citrus – Irrigation Water Management
  - Robbins Cattle Co. – Brush Management (Brazilian Pepper)
- ❖ Presentation in Fellsmere on Programs provided by USDA; USDA and City of Fellsmere-Prosperity Summit – 1 application from Meeting.
- ❖ Office still closed to public, by appointment only.

### **B. Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture/ UF IFAS Report:**

- ❖ Office is Back to Business. Nickie Munroe: Soil Teaching Classes to Snow Birds, Urban Farmers and Urban Home Owners; Reporting Season. Planning for next year: Soil education for potential Hemp Farmers throughout the State of Florida.

**Linda Caggiano, IRSWCD**

- ❖ The 2021 Poster Contest and Stewardship week theme is “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities.” Flyers completed ready to go out to schools this 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. October meeting cancelled. Kaylene Wheeler no longer with IRLNEP.
- ❖ 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. Amendment signed.
- ❖ Annual Audit: Prepare information for CPA.
- ❖ Yearly Reports to State:
  - Public Depositor Annual Report filed 10/20/2020, Confirmation Receipt 10/26/2020; deadline: 11/30/2020.
  - Records Management Compliance Statement filed 11/06/2020; deadline: 12/31/2020.
  - State of Florida Commission on Ethics: waiting on documents; deadline: 1/31/2020.
- ❖ Website and Facebook updated in the past week.
- ❖ AFCD: Membership October 30<sup>th</sup> - \$350.00
- ❖ Monday, December 13, 2020: IRSWCD Board Meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:01 PM.

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David E. Gunter, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date