

# 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, January 11, 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*

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

*Bobby Lindsey, Member: IRSWCD - Seat #4*

**Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chairman Robert C. Adair Jr. called meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

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

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD  
Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS  
Jake Fojtik, Environmental Specialist III, Office of  
Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS  
Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture Agent & Director  
UF IFAS Indian River County Extension

**Public in attendance:** None

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA/EMERGENCY ITEMS:**

Added: 6.B. Indian River County CUP Users.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. The minutes for December 9, 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:**

A. The Financial Report for December 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 Robert C. Adair, Jr. 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 October through December 2020. Next Meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021. Disbursement of funds for Brevard County Marine Resources Council Report Card on the health of the Indian River Lagoon. <https://savetheirl.org/irl-health-update/irl-report-card/> Allocating funds to projects.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **St. Johns River Water Management District: Suzanne Archer**, Technical Program Coordinator – Agricultural Assistance Bureau of Water Supply Planning.

*(Staff's Note: Chairman, David E. Gunter joined the meeting at 1:42 PM.)*

- i. St. Johns River Water Management District is accepting cost-share applications through Jan. 29 from farmers, growers and ranchers interested in partnering on agricultural projects that promote water conservation and reduce nutrient runoff across the District. The cost-share program provides up to 75 percent of cooperative funding, not to exceed \$250,000 per applicant annually, toward the design, construction and implementation of technologies and strategies to improve water efficiencies and protect natural systems. Eligible projects include irrigation system retrofits, soil moisture and climate sensor technology, rainwater harvesting, sub-irrigation drain tile, tailwater recovery and reuse, expanded waste storage, and soil

mapping with variable rate fertilizer application. (*Informational –Not Requiring Board Action*)

(*Vice-Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr. turned the meeting over to Chairman David E. Gunter at 1:51P.M.*)

## **B. Indian River County CUP Users:**

- i. Indian River County Water Utilities is proposing to expand the number of wells at the north County wellfields at Hobart Park and intends to conduct water modeling studies contracting with CDM Smith, Inc. Concerns were raised that existing CUP holders would experience reduced flows and increased total dissolved solids from their wells caused by the County's increased withdrawals from the expanded wellfield. Increased withdrawals from the County's north wellfield in the past have reduced flows at Countryside Citrus on 81<sup>st</sup> Street. Recently a cooperater reported reduced flow and reduced water quality in his permitted 6" artesian well on 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Concerns were raised that the County's increased production might be adversely impacting permitted wells to the south and more so if and when the proposed new wells come into production. In response to the above:

**Motion: A motion to send a letter to the Indian River County Utilities Director – Vincent M. Burke requesting monthly withdrawal amounts from the north County wellfield and if they have recently increased withdrawals. Also, to provide the Board with the County's plans to expand the number of wells at the same wellfield along with the results of the modeling study by CDM Smith Inc. Contract #2018008. Moved by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.**

- ii. Indian River County participates in a cost-share program with the St. Johns River Water River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to plug (decommission by filling with concrete) abandoned artesian wells countywide, including wells on private property (subject to authorization from the private landowner). However, well head repair and well re-casing which cost \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 are not available for cost-share from wither entity and offer significant water conservation benefits. For example, re-casing wells from 6 inch down to 4 inch in diameter does reduce the amount of water discharged, but more importantly reduces the chlorides, thereby improving water quality and eliminates the leaking of aquifer water with high chlorides into the Surficial Aquifer.

**Motion: A motion to have Robert C. Adair, Jr. send a letter to Suzanne Archer, Technical Program Coordinator – Agricultural Assistance, Bureau of Water Supply Planning, St. Johns River Water Management District regarding Cost-Share Program benefits of the three major types of well repairs stated above was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. REPORTS:**

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

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 18 of 53 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,300,000 over approximately 12,000 acres.
- ❖ EQIP: 13Active Contracts; 9 applications.
- ❖ CSP: 5 Active Contracts.
- ❖ ACEP-WRE: FY 2021 Deadline November 30
- ❖ Conservation Applications: December - January:
  - R & S Cattle – Brush Management (Brazilian Pepper) and fence.
- ❖ Contracting Management, EQIP application field visits.

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

- ❖ High priority on Implementation, Verification Business: Producers enrolled every two years, fertilizer review of records.
- ❖ New Cost-Share Projects. Accepting Cost-Share Applications from Producers will obtain quotes for their applications and go through FDACS process. Soil moisture sensors, solar well with water troughs, precision application equipment, irrigation automation, and culvert replacements. 3 citrus bmp and 2 cattle bmp.

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

- ❖ Virtual Industrial Hemp Workshop (Cost of \$40.00) that can be visited anytime.
- ❖ On-Site Visits: Hemp Farms, Equine visits: Equine BMP's, encouraging use of BMP Manual, inability to understand the relationship between pasturing the horses and what they are eating, vaccinations, manure disposal, and pasture management. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) has shut down shows.
- ❖ Virtual; pesticide licensing for South Districts
- ❖ Ag-Worker Safety Day and Fresh Fruit is now online.
- ❖ The 2021 *Florida Grower* Citrus Show on May 12-13. This year's Citrus Show, originally planned for February, was rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Havert L. Fenn Center, Ft. Pierce Florida.
- ❖ J. Scott Angle, PH. D.; Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) called a meeting with IRC Agricultural Extension Staff this morning.

**D. Linda Caggiano**

- ❖ The 2021 Poster Contest and Stewardship week theme is “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities.” Flyers sent out to schools. DEADLINE: Posters must be received on or before 4:00 PM – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- ❖ Envirothon 2021 – Cancelled.
- ❖ FDACS Contract #: 24393; 2020-2021: \$90,00.00 + \$3,237.22 balance from the 2019-2020 Contract. Producers obtaining quotes for their applications and go through FDACS process. Offices are still closed, working from Home Offices or Out in Field.
- ❖ FCDEA: Teleconference Meeting January 19, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.; Mid-Year Meeting Feb/March 2021.
- ❖ Annual Audit: In-Process.
- ❖ Yearly Reports to State:
- ❖ State of Florida Commission on Ethics: 2<sup>nd</sup> part due after 01/07/2021.
- ❖ Department of Revenue-Sales Tax Return Filed 01/06/2021.
- ❖ Website and Facebook updated in the past week.
- ❖ Until Further Notice: Thursday's will be working at EOC – Assist with Vaccination Calls.
- ❖ **AFCD: Membership - \$350.00**
- ❖ **Office will be closed week of January 18, 2021 – Martin Luther King , Jr. Day.**
- ❖ Monday, February 8, 2021: IRSWCD Board Meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Gunter, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date