

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, March 8, 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:

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

Supervisors in attendance: David E. Gunter, Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Lindsey, Member

Supervisors attendance**Via Zoom:**

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chairman
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

Staff in attendance**Via Zoom:**

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

Public in attendance:

Bob Ulevich, Corrigan Ranch

Public via Zoom:

None.

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

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

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

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for February 2021 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 P. Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

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

i. Per Dr. David L. Cox, IRLNEP STEM Meeting held February 9, 2021 @ 1:30.

Voted on proposals submitted for funding. National Estuary Program (NEP) funding in Indian River County: RFP 2022-03 Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects Category 3. Indian River Land Trust received funding in the amount of \$61,500.00 for Validation of Inexpensive and Effective Modifications of Mosquito Impoundment Strategies to Increase Their Value as Vital Fish. University of Central Florida received funding in the amount of \$55,000.00 for Improving Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Reef and Living Shoreline Restoration by Using Only Biodegradable Materials.

ii. Per Bob Ulevich, he has resigned as Chairman of the Management Board of the Indian River Lagoon Council- Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRL-NEP) since 1990. Kathy LaMartina is the New Chair, South Florida Water Management District and Tom Carey, Co-Chair from Volusia County. 2021 number of projects small in number believe SJRWMD had a lot of money luring away projects. Project he has promoted for past 21 + years: Transformation of radial bottom opening gates/overflow gates. There is now modeling, put in load projections – enough quantitative data. IRLNEP has free grant writing services.

B. AFCD Letter to Archie Matthews, Parliamentarian, Alachua SWCD.

- i. Telephone call from Charlene Meeks today. AFCD held a meeting March 5, 2021. Archie is drafting a letter in response to our February 25, 2021 letter.

Motion: A motion to request that IRSWCD be transferred out of Area 5 into Area 4 was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Indian River County CUP Users:

- i. Letter 1 and 2 to Vincent Burke. Vincente Burke Response Letter.
- ii. Board Supervisors discussed the current CUP usage that expires 2031. Protect resources, ground water, but not the agricultural area as in the past. Need to keep “our” water in “our” county. Water farming in the districts, modeling, purple pipe (water re-use) counties in the north that already retro-fit two meters: potable sewer rates and irrigation/pool meter no sewer rates on, get two bills every month. To bring about change need to go to SJRWMD. SJRWMD cannot continue to issue CUP permits for municipal artisan wells out of the upper Floridan aquifer. There are spring flow issues north of here and now well impacts here. Municipal well has a deep well turbine 120 ft down, not the same as an artesian free flowing well - not comparable they should meet a higher thrush hold of take than a regular artesian well. Those are rules promulgated by the water management districts not the county.

Motion: A motion to request invite Doug Bournique from SJRWMD and staff, Commissioner Joseph Earman, and County to our April 12, 2021 Board Meeting to discuss the CUP Usage was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Shawn P. Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS:**7. REPORTS:****A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Report:**

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 16 of 52 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,300,000 over approximately 12,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 11 Active Contracts; 8 eligible applications.
- ❖ **CSP:** 5 Active Contracts. March 31 deadline to apply.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** no applications currently.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications:** February - March:
 - Ox Creek Ranch: Trough system, cogan grass treatment.
- ❖ **Contract Management;** Completed EQIP application assessments; Acting as Area 4 Program Specialist; CSP outreach.
- ❖ **Local Working Group Meeting:** April 12, 2021, immediately following the regular Board Meeting.

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.

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

- ❖ **UF/IFAS Best Management Practices Virtual Summit Website:** <https://bmp.ifas.ufl.edu/> Website has a link to the Implementation Of The Clean Waterways Act And Agricultural Best Management Practices. Senate Bill 712 (SB 712) was signed into law July 2020 there have been many questions about requirements and implementation. BMP’s and BMP Manuals.

D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II

- ❖ **FDACS:** Received two Cost-Share contracts from FDACS totaling \$10,423.04 of the \$93,237.22. Spoke to Okeechobee Office 2/24/2021 - Offices are still closed, working from Home Offices or Out in Field. ADA District Website Training – Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Teleconference Meeting: February 16, 2021 @ 2:00 pm. Mid-Year Meeting May 20, 2021: NRCS Office - Gainesville, FL waiting for additional information before sending Travel Approval. Next FCDEA Meeting - March 23, 2021.
- ❖ **AFCD:** Charlene Meeks, executive Director with Association of Florida Conservation District (AFCD) and Board Member - Archie Matthews, Parliamentarian, Alachua SWCD attended February meeting. Letter to Archie Matthews sent February 25, 2021. Meeting definitely helped resolve questions that IRSWCD had regarding the future course of AFCD. IRSWD asked AFCD to please consider establishing some sub-groups or sub-committee within AFCD, so that we have SWCD within the boundaries of a particular water management district can meet together to discuss water management issues. AFCD Area 5 Meeting TBD May or June. (As of 11/06/2020 New Area 5 Consist of: *Peace River (Desoto County), Charlotte, (New), Hardee, Lee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Hendry, Glades, and Martin. (Deleted: Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Collier.)* AFCD 2021 Annual Meeting: September 8 – 10, 2021 in Jacksonville, FL. Area 5 Meeting Tentatively set for Thursday, May 6, 2021.
- ❖ **Office:** Prepared Agenda and Meeting for March 8, 2021 Meeting. Preparing letters for Board to review and sign: AFCD and IRC Water Utilities. SJRWMD CUP search documents for Supervisor. 2021 Poster Contest and Stewardship week theme is “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities.” DEADLINE: Posters must be received on or before 4:00 PM – March 5th, 2021. Received from Pelican Island Elementary 15 posters and Treasurer Coast Elementary 16 posters. Still need to verify for eligibility and judge prior to awards. Website and Facebook updated in past week. Audit in process, sent additional information to Patrick Graham 02/04/2021. Preparing for Local Working Group - April 12, 2021 immediately following Board Meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021.

8. 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