

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, May 10, 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
Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Supervisors attendance

Via Zoom: Shawn P. Elliott, Member (*Joined 1:56pm*)
Bobby Lindsey, Member

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD
Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture Agent & Director
UF IFAS Indian River County Extension

Staff in attendance

Via Zoom: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist,
USDA/NRCS
Jake Fojtik, Environmental Specialist III, Office of
Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS

Public in attendance: Bob Bolton, City of Vero Beach
Joe Earman, BOCC of IRC
Lex Kromhout, The Hammock Ranch Preserve, LLC
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Bob Ulevich, Corrigan Ranch
Catherine D. Ziegler, Agricultural Resource
Management, Inc.
Mike Ziegler, Agricultural Resource Management, Inc.

Public via Zoom: Jean Catchpole, Clean Water Coalition of IRC
Bryan Corrigan, Corrigan Ranch
Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator,
Governmental Affairs Program; SJRWMD
(Joined 2:22 pm)

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

A. The minutes for April 12, 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 Local Working Group minutes for April 12, 2021 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 April 2021 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

Motion: A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

- A. Review Draft Audit for Year Ending 2020 from Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates, PLLC.

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

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. Dr. David L. Cox, said that the next STEM Meeting is Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Presentation: “Restore Lagoon Inflow: Project Introduction and Phase I Findings” (Dr. Jeff Eble, Florida Institute of Technology).

B. Potable Water and Water Farming for Indian River County.

- i. Request someone from SJRWMD provide the Board with current information on the County’s Water Supply Planning especially future planning and water farming.

C. Water withdrawals from the Upper Floridan Aquifer system and Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs) for Indian River County.

- i. Chairman, David E. Gunter spoke regarding Indian River County Board of County Commissioners Meeting held April 20, 2021 where individuals spoke to the Commissioners representing Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion: A motion was made by Bobby Lindsey that in the future any group or partial group representing the IRSWCD before any other official group do so with a written Resolution approved by a majority of IRSWCD Supervisors from a prior Board Meeting with Resolution Questions and Answers to the Questions.

Motion to Amend: A Motion to Amend the Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. that the Chairman of Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District or his/her Designee representing the IRSWCD may speak for the Board before any other official group only with a written Resolution approved by a majority of IRSWCD Supervisors from a prior Board Meeting. Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. David L. Cox mentioned if Indian River County staff has any plans or taken action on the U.S. Geological Survey; requesting an updated county-wide geohydrological survey

Motion: A Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. to send a letter to The Honorable Laura Moss, Indian River Board of County Commissioners. Requesting the Commissioner to proceed with a U.S. Geological Survey and Hydrological Study. Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. to send a second letter to The Honorable Laura Moss, Indian River Board of County Commissioners. Requesting BOCC to hold and attend a series of workshops:

A.) U.S. Geological Survey and Hydrological Study – Explaining what it is and what are the benefits.

B.) “Future Water of Indian River County”, draw down, water supply, ground water, water farming, a study of westward movement.

Attendees to be invited: all users of Indian River County water, interested Public, District, Cities, County, other Agencies, Cities, Boards, and other Water Management Districts that want to work together to research and educate the public with the 2030 IRC Comprehensive Plan and assuring a sustainable water supply for Indian River County. s. Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman, David E. Gunter requested draft from Vincent Burke, Utilities Director Indian River County: Water Report.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Potable Water and Water Farming for Indian River County.

- i. Request someone from SJRWMD provide the Board with current information on the County’s Water Supply Planning especially future planning and water farming.

8. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 15 of 53 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,200,000 over approximately 12,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 10 Active Contracts; 8 eligible applications; 4 Preapproved (of 15 total preapproved)
- ❖ **CSP:** 5 Active Contracts.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** no applications currently.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications:** April – May:
 - Robbins Cattle Co.: Livestock water trough system.
- ❖ **Contract Management; EQIP obligations.** Complete CSP assessments and ranking.

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

- ❖ **Cost-Shares** completing work and should be finishing soon for reimbursement.

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

- ❖ **Site Ranchette:** Owner lives in Ten Square Farms on 2- 10 acres of property. She is putting in an equine wash center and manure going down a 4-inch waterpipe into the neighbor’s property. Neighbor has complained to Code Enforcement, Indian River Farms Water Control, Agricultural Extension s Guidance from UF/IFAS on how to open back up programs. Pesticide licensing classes are now one-time a month. Most training via Zoom, site visits in-person: Diamond Drinks former Indian River Exchange Packers. Took a local hemp farmer to Diamond Drinks to discuss utilizing the degreening rooms as a converted hemp drying facility. To partners to utilize the facility full term.

D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II

- ❖ **FDACS:** April 16, 2021 FDACS and IRSWCD signed New Contract # 27690: \$100,000.00 each year through June 30, 2024. New Contract requiring General Liability Insurance and FL Dishonesty Insurance. Advance of \$50,000.00 has been processed by FDACS. Total FDACS Funds Available 2020- June 30, 2021: \$251,237.22. Received four Cost-Share contracts from FDACS; Total of 6 contracts to-date totaling \$77,065.71 of the \$251,237.22. Offices are still closed, working from Home Offices or Out in Field through August 2021.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Teleconference Meeting: April 27, 2021 @ 2:00 pm. Mid-Year Meeting May 20 & 21, 2021 to be held via Zoom. *Postponed due to availability of audio equipment and speakers schedule.* Next FCDEA Meeting – TBD .
- ❖ **AFCD:** IRSWCD sent letter March 9, 2021 to AFCD to allow IRSWCD to transfer out of Area 5 to Area 4 due to SJRWMD is in Area 4 not Area 5. AFCD did receive the letter and forwarded it to the Executive Board, the next AFCD quarterly meeting is in June. Per Charlene, “this is something that will be discussed at the AFCD Annual Meeting with all of the AFCD members. Believe there will be a presentation from the St. Johns Water Management District at the Area 3 meeting on July 1st.” AFCD Area 4 Meeting set for Friday, June 18, 2021 in Lake County. Approximately 2 hour and 15-minute drive. AFCD 2021 Annual Meeting: September 8 – 10, 2021 in Daytona Beach, FL.
- ❖ **Office:** April’s Board Meeting and the BOCC Meeting April 20, 2021 Water withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer system and Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs) for Indian River County’s Water Supply. Planning especially future planning and water farming topics caused a controversy between both IRSWCD, IRC, and SJRWMD. Prepared Board Minutes and Local Working Group Minutes with tally of questionnaire completed for NRCS. Judged the posters from two schools: Pelican Island and Treasurer Coast Elementary. Need to get gift cards and bring to schools before May 14, 2021. Audit to be approved by Board on Monday, then formality of form letters and then preparing packages to the State of Florida later this month. Prepare and send AFR report to CPA for approval and then the State of Florida by June 30, 2021. Spoke to two insurance companies for General Liability insurance. Waiting on quotes, which takes about 7-10 business days.
- ❖ Discussed the poster contest to the Board of Supervisors. Due to only two schools sending in posters: Treasurer Coast Elementary entered 16 posters and Pelican Island entered 15 posters; Category K-1 only had 2 posters total, so no 3rd place of \$25.00.

Motion: A Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. to award Treasurer Coast Elementary Teacher the \$50.00 for the most eligible posters submitted and to award Pelican Island Elementary teacher the \$25.00 for entering the contest. Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:21 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date