

# 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, August 9, 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 1:33 PM.

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

**Supervisors attendance**

**Via Zoom:** None

**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:** Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of  
Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS

**Public in attendance:** Bob Bolton, City of Vero Beach  
Jill Grimaldi, Kimley – Horn  
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach  
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC  
Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities

**Public in attendance**

**Via Zoom:** Jean Catchpole, Clean Water Coalition of IRC  
Bryan Corrigan, Corrigan Ranch  
Judy Orcutt, Clean Water Coalition of IRC

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

A. The minutes for July 12, 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 July 2021 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

**Motion: A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Dr. David L. Cox. And Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:****A. Liability and Dishonesty Insurance:**

- i. Western Surety Bond \$359.00 is for the Board of Supervisors; Liberty Mutual Crime/Dishonesty Policy \$343.00 is for Staff Assistant. Plus General Liability \$264.00, Terrorism \$1.00 is a grand total of \$967.00. Board to *finalize* the Insurance Policies so that IRSWCD will be in compliance with both the Audit and FDACS.

**Motion: A motion to approve the purchase of insurance as presented total of \$967.00 was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. IRSWCD Supervisors Seat 1 to resign due to out of IRC. Board will need to appoint a new Supervisors until next election November 2022.**

- i. Shawn Paul Elliott has not signed a resignation letter that has been sent to him. Bobby Lindsey will reach out to him.

**C. AFCD Area 4 Meeting held Friday, June 18, 2021 in Lake County.**

- i. Originally in Area 5, moved to Area 4. Review Area 3 and Area 4 Supervisors list - possible change to Area 3. Supervisors discussed the Areas and that IRSWCD needs to be with Farmers.

**Motion: A motion to send a letter to AFCD requesting to move back to Area 5 align with other SWCD in agriculture. Petition AFCD to create a Sub-Group of those SWCD Boards interested in SJRWMD issues and agriculture that are like minded as IRSWCD (not political) was made by Bobby Lindsey 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 the next meeting is Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 1:30 pm. in Malabar. Will report next month.

**B. Current information on the County's Water Supply Planning especially future planning and water farming.**

- i. SJRWMD request that IRSWCD Board compile the questions and send them to SJRWMD. (See attachment 07.09.2021 SJRWMD to IRC – Move Water West.)

**David E. Gunter:** “Received a reply that SJRWMD written to IRC when first came up. (See attachment) In his opinion states, the Staff’s position is that SJRWMD does not need any water pumped west, to go through private ponds, to make sure it was to be super clean before discharged into the upper basins. In his opinion is what Jason Brown and Rich Szpyrka felt that the letter indicated. Until that changes or someone within the SJRWMD Governing Board pushes the issue - no further action-issue is dead.

As to the SJRWMD’s public meeting on the Central Springs/East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP): They do not have adequate funding to plug the leaking wells in the County since those funds have been exhausted on the County road projects. Auxiliary water sources should be explored – but no details were provided. I was very disappointed with the plan. Reuse needs to be a pressurized system applied directly to vegetation, not supplied to on site retention ponds for storm water retention that are not equipped to handle the associated nutrients loads,”

**Robert C. Adair, Jr.:** Adair opined “The RWSP is not a plan. It cannot meet the estimated increases in potable water demand solely with conservation measures. One of the conservation measures was cost share funding to plug wells of only \$65,000.00 - \$75,000.00 for three wells. Spoke to Joy Kokjohn, Regional Water Supply Planning Coordinator from SJRWMD that gave the bulk of the presentation. There was a figure showing the projected potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) for the County. Bob mentioned to her that the

Clean Energy Plant SW corner was not shown on the figure nor was the North and South County wellfields. Joy replied, “that is because the diagram is 2014 data”. I was told that the District did not actually run the modelling because all future needs could be met by conservation. Bob told Joy that was not acceptable. He suggested sending a letter with comments on the RWSP to SJRWMD stating that the well sampling studies in the County are not adequate.”

**Motion: A motion was made for by Bobby Lindsey for Robert C. Adair, Jr. to draft a letter to the SJRWMD with our comments regarding the RWSP and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Bob Bolton:** “The level of detail that IRSWCD is going to want, we can all do from a County standpoint. COVB, IRC, Fellsmere, all need a supply plan. All those supply plans need to coordinate and mesh together with the agriculture people. We need as a community to do a plan. Everyone gets together. But first need an inventory all the wells, go out to each agriculture property, knock on doors, ask where the wells are. Between the City and County GIS System, start mapping out the wells. Get GPS points on them, talk to farmers get flow rates on them, where demands are. THEN get GIS study.

**Robert C. Adair, Jr.:** The Florida Research Center has a meta data from the District’s website locating all of the CUP wells: location, depth and owner of the well information as of 1995. IRC Health Department has a data base listing all the Domestic supply wells with permits (~8,000 wells). So getting all the data together shouldn’t be hard. Suggested giving Dr. Dorothy Sifuentes the database with cooperation from IRC Health Department, COVB, and Fellsmere, then maybe she can do it (run the projected drawdowns).

**Jill Grimaldi:** Has data from 4 years ago and possible re-do the information. Has database and maps for all the wells suggested above. Kimley-Horn is a consultant for all 3 utilities for water supply. Permitted users from IRC Health Department and SJRWMD Database were sent out a mailer as to how deep, how old well is and if there is a pump on well or not.

**David E. Gunter:** As a group we get out into the community and talk to producers, maybe send a newsletter explaining what we are trying to do. If we start gathering the data, then can go to the County and City. My concern is the small Floridan Domestic wells. Those are the ones that Municipal Soil and Water Supply Wells will affect first. Handle on domestic use wells that WMD does not know about, but the County and City will need to know about. Compile the data base, get the three municipalities: COVB, Fellsmere, and IRC and get U.S. Geological Survey to do an analyst of the data base.

**Bob Bolton:** The County needs to create a Supply Plan; meaning the Whole County : COVB, Fellsmere, IRC needs create a plan of what “are” the needs of each of the suppliers and the agricultural users. Sit down establish a plan, discussion an agreement on a level without an engineering plan of what is logical and makes sense, negotiations back and forth. Once an outline and details are together then hire a person like Jill Grimaldi to put a final plan together.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Recorded Video of IRSWCD Board Meetings:**

- i. Should the videos be posted to the IRSWCD website as well as sent out along with our Agenda Packets? Letter sent to Phillip Matson on July 21, 2021 request approval/authorization from Indian River County to have the IRSWCD Board Meeting videos posted to our website on a monthly basis.

Reply from Phillip Matson: “Dan at IT is going to weigh in on any issues involved (website ADA compliance, costs/resources, etc.) and we’ll get back to you.”

- B. **Jill Grimaldi with Kimley-Horn:** Request a letter of support for a project Kimley-Horn is involved in for the City of Vero Beach.

**Motion: A motion to send a letter of support, with minor changes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **C. Bryan Corrigan, Corrigan Ranch:**

- i. Stated his concerned that the SJRWMD decommissioned their three monitoring well on his property.

## **8. REPORTS:**

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

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 20 of 63 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,250,000 over approximately 13,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 13 Active Contracts FY 2022 application deadline September 1, 2021.
- ❖ **CSP:** 7 Active Contracts.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: June – July**
  - None
- ❖ Contract Management; Completed EQIP obligations. EQIP application field visits FY 22. Assisted Okeechobee and Sebring offices with workload. Inspections for completed conservation practices in St. Lucie County.

### **B. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS:**

- ❖ Secured funding for Cost-Shares for New Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- ❖ Accepting new applications in next two weeks. Will send email and forward to Christine Kelly -Begazo to get to Producers.

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

- ❖ Water Quality and Quantity: Nickie Munroe, Environmental Horticulture Agent focus on environmental quality with the Florida Friendly Landscape Program all classes taught to the Public and Master Gardeners Training all focus on environmental quality with the Florida Friendly Landscaping.
- ❖ Agricultural Department has been updating the BMP Manuals, forwarding, mailing out, and available in office. Cost-Shares to various producers. Citrus and vegetable production guides are available in the office. Commercial Green Industries BMP Program. New Director in St. Lucie County working together to start “in-Person”, but possible back to Zoom, Fall CEU Programs and Pesticide testing for licenses monthly.

- ❖ Closing down programs created over the past 18 years that she created since she will be retiring in January 2022.
- ❖ 4-H Agent position just closed and short list of applicants. Program Assistant interested in creating water programs with Youth Development in 4-H. Looking into 4-H water programs to implement in afterschool programs. educate people on BMP of water quality with new school year.

**D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II**

- ❖ **FDACS:** Processed four (4) ACH payments from the South State Bank accounts for FDACS. To date have spent \$158,307.75 for 8 Cost-Shares. Waiting for final paperwork for another 8 Cost-Shares to pay out an additional \$234,333.00. Board to approve at Board Meeting: Western Surety Bond of \$359.00 for Board of Supervisors; Liberty Mutual Crime/Dishonesty Policy \$343.00 for Staff Assistant; Plus General Liability \$246.00, Terrorism \$1.00; Grand Total \$967.00. Required by FDACS New Contract. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, FDACS took over the responsibilities from Jake Fojtik. Offices are still closed, working from Home Offices or Out in Field through August 2021.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Teleconference Meeting: August 17, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.
- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD Contest Workshop Meeting in Gainesville, FL Monday was scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2021. Cancelled due to Staff exposed to COVID-19. AFCD 2021 Annual Meeting: September 8 – 10, 2021 in Daytona Beach, FL. Board will have Staff Assistant attend meeting. (Waiting to see what is happening with COVID.) AFCD is Liaison for NRCS to plan the next round of Local Working Group Meetings. The expectation is to have a date and location locked in by Thursday, August 19 with the meetings being held between October 1-November 30, 2021.
- ❖ **Office:** Prepare July Board Minutes and letters as per Motions made in meeting. Prepare August Agenda and items for Monday’s meeting. Cost-Share review of files, reimbursing the Producers. Supervisors Shawn P. Elliott is moving out of the County. Will need to resign. Preparing forms for him. Sent several emails and spoke on telephone. No action taken from him.

**9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:** None

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:04 PM.

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David E. Gunter, Chairman

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Date

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David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date