

# **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, September 13, 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*

*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 1:40 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

**Staff in attendance  
Via Zoom:** Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS

**Public in attendance:** Bob Bolton, City of Vero Beach  
Mike Johannsen, Indian River Neighborhood Association  
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

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

A. The minutes for August 9, 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.**

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

A. The Financial Report for August 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 Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

i. General Liability Policy received. Pending receipt of Bond Policy. Refund of \$83.00; Total cost of insurance \$884.00

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

i. Resignation letter mailed August 16, 2021 to Governor DeSantis.

Robert C. Adair, Jr.: Each Supervisor consider nominating, making a slate of appointees to fill the Supervisor position. Also, would like to nominate Bryan Corrigan as a Supervisor.

David E. Gunter: Let the other Supervisors think about it, who they would like to serve as Supervisor volunteering their time until next election November 2022.

Dr. David L. Cox: Time line by next meeting to appoint New Supervisor.

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

Letter sent August 23, 2021 to AFCD. Friday, September 10, 2021 at the end of the AFCD Conference, Staff Assistant, Linda Caggiano spoke with Jeff Moore, President of AFCD, Archie Matthews, Parliamentarian of AFCD, and Charlene Meeks, Executive Director of AFCD. Discussed IRSWCD moving move from Area 4, back to Area 5. Jeff does not have a problem with IRSWCD moving back to Area 5. Also, discussed how SWCD in Areas are different from one another. Asked AFCD to please consider establishing some sub-groups or sub-committee within AFCD that we have SWCD within the boundaries of a particular water management district, farmers Agriculture, nonpartisan can meet together to discuss issues.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- i. Dr. David L. Cox, reported that the IRL STEM Advisory Committee met on August 10, 2021 . Water Quality report. Status Update on Manatees by Dr. Martine De Wit, FWC.

Laura Moss: If IRSWCD Board approves and sends a letter, please include County Commissioners and Staff. Makes Public aware and a matter of public record

**Motion: Motion to send a letter to Stephen Hitt, IRC to update our County Manatees Protection Plan, (not since 2004) supposed to be updated every five years. Regulatory requirements of nutrients and discharges of what we look at today, will be drafted by and Motion was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion passed.**

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

- i. Email sent August 26, 2021 to Joy Kokjohn, Regional Water Supply Coordinator for SJRWMD. No Reply to Date.
- ii. SJRWMD letter to IRC dated August 5, 2021: Compliance Item No. 1428482

**Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities:** Utilities Department had a teleconference with the SJRWMD staff, told letter sent to the County in error not intended to be a compliance letter but intended to be an introduction letter to the new Hydrologist taking over out communications. District aware of our progress to explore our alternative water resources.

**Robert C. Adair, Jr.:** Brought up the Water Supply Workshop, Indian River Utilities Department, Vero Beach Water & Sewer Department-Bob Bolton, Jill Grimaldi-Kimley-Horn, CDM, SJRWMD, Dorothy Sifuentes-PhD, Associate Director Hydrologic Studies-Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center, Bart Gaetjens- External Affairs Manager with FPL- Okeechobee Clean Energy Center, Indian River Neighborhood Association, IRNEP-Duane De Freese -PhD. Executive Director, Builders, Land Owners. Proactively as a Board, sponsor, objective education, science based water supply plan workshop: what are the facts, where are we and where can we go and what are our choices.

**David E. Gunter:** Need to be only a 1-1/2 hours

**Robert C. Adair, Jr.:** Six speakers with different viewpoints.

**Laura Moss:** Not that much money needed. Rent the IG Center \$150 an hour Environmental Groups may want to pay the fee. May be a one-day event or afternoon. Need Media attention, Public Relations, Stake Holders involved. Happy to help, work with the individual that the Board Appoints and move forward with the workshop.

**Bob Bolton:** Charter High School may be a place to hold, plus educational.

**Motion: A motion to appoint Robert C. Adair, Jr. as Board Supervisor to be in charge and handle what is needed to move forward with the Water Supply Workshop, was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Recorded Video of IRSWCD Board Meetings:**

- i. No response from Dan Russell, Information technology Director to weigh in on any issues involved (website ADA compliance, costs/resources, etc.).

**D. Jill Grimaldi with Kimley-Horn:**

- i. Letter of Support for the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation General Infrastructure Program (CDBG-MIT GIP) grant being requested by the City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department for the construction of a new water reclamation facility (WRF) delivered to Jill Grimaldi on August 11, 2021.

Both Bob Bolton and Honey Minuse with the City of Vero Beach, “Thanked” IRSWCD for the Letter. We were the first letter they received in support for the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation General Infrastructure Program (CDBG-MIT GIP).

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**8. REPORTS:**

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

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 20 of 61 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,250,000 over approximately 13,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 13 Active Contracts FY 2022 application deadline October 1, 2021.
- ❖ **CSP:** 7 Active Contracts.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: August – September (Approx. \$83,000 Disbursed\_**
  - 17 acres – Brush Management
  - 28 acres – Brush Management
  - 203.6 acres – Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- ❖ **Other:** Contract Management; EQIP application filed visits FY 22;
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue 2022 EQIP application field visits; Contract Management.

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

- ❖ Business as usual, no updates.

**C. Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agriculture/ UF IFAS Report: No report.**

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

- ❖ **FDACS:** Processed (2) ACH payments from the South State Bank accounts for FDACS. To date have spent \$234,627.00 for 9 Cost-Shares. Waiting for FDACS reimbursements to payout a balance of \$105,693.12 to close-out the Contract 24393. Spoke to Angela Weeks-Samanie at the conference, instructed how to complete the final files. Wants checks written, copies sent to her with invoices. Send checks to Producers when the funds are available. Contract 27690 for 2021-2022 has 3 pending Cost-Share Agreements, waiting for RFR packets. Waiting to receive the Western Surety Bond. Policy Premium Refund of \$83.00 received. Deposit ready to take to the bank.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Annual Meeting held at AFCD Meeting week of 09/08 – 09/10/2021. New Officers installed: Ann Bishop, Marion SWCD- President; Audrey Kuiper’s, Okeechobee SWCD – Vice President; Linda Caggiano, Indian River SWCD – Secretary; Joni Fortner, Suwannee SWCD – Treasurer. Betty Jo Tompkins, Hillsborough SWCD – Past President
- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD 2021 Annual Meeting held September 8 – 10, 2021 in Daytona Beach, FL. AFCD Poster Contest: Indian River has two (2) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners. 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. IRSWCD will hold Local Working Group November 8, 2021 following the Monthly Board Meeting. Charles Shinn, Florida Farm Bureau spoke at the conference. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Army (the agencies) have announced their intent to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to better protect our nation’s vital water resources that support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth. As described in an EPA declaration requesting remand of the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, a broad array of stakeholders—including states, Tribes, local governments, scientists, and non-governmental organizations—are seeing destructive impacts to critical water bodies under the 2020 rule. The agencies’ intent to initiate a new rulemaking process that restores the protections in place prior to the 2015 WOTUS implementation, and anticipates developing a new rule that defines WOTUS and is informed by a robust engagement process as well as the experience of implementing the pre-2015 rule, the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, and the Trump-era Navigable Waters Protection Rule. Chris Pettit, Director of FDACS-OAWP: BMP’s, Water Resource. Requested Presentation
- ❖ **Office:** Prepare August Board Minutes and letters as per Motions made in meeting. Prepare September Agenda and items for Monday’s meeting. Cost-Share review of files, reimbursing the Producers.

**9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:** None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:01 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