

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, October 4, 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:

Joann Binford, Candidate for IRC BOCC
Bob Bolton, City of Vero Beach
Jake Fojtik, Florida Farm Bureau
R. Grant Gilmore, Senior Scientist at Estuarine,
Coastal and Ocean Science, Inc.
Lex Kromhout, The Hammock Ranch Preserve, LLC
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities

Public in attendance

Via Zoom: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS
Judy Orcutt, Clean Water Coalition of IRC
Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, OAWP - FDACS

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

A. The minutes for September 13, 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 September 2021 was not available, defer until next meeting.

Motion: A motion to contact South State Bank to send statements by the first or second day of the month or change banks was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. **IRSWCD Supervisor Seat 1 – Vacant:** Board to appoint a new Supervisor until next election - November 2022.

- i. Discussion: David E. Gunter, Chairman: Suggest the Board hold off for another month to have members speak to additional people who may be interested to serve on the Board.

Robert C. Adair, Jr.: Introduced and would like to consider Dr. Grant Gilmore, Senior Scientist at Estuarine, Coastal and Ocean Science, Inc. Would bring a vast amount of resource of expertise and sound science to make very important decisions for our County.

Dr. David L. Cox: Dr. Grant Gilmore's knowledge, his understanding the ecology of the State of Florida, soil and water would elevate our Board enormously to have his commitment and background to assist the Board.

Motion: A motion to table the appointing of a new Board member until next month. Allowing the IRSWCD Board additional time to contact individuals who may be interested to serve on the Board. Any person/individual that is interested in serving on the Board is to submit in writing, a letter of their willingness to serve on the IRSWCD Board and include a resume. Letter and resume are to be sent to the IRSWCD office and Staff Assistant will forward to the Board for review was made by Bobby Lindsey and seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approval of 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule.** (All Meetings scheduled for 2nd Monday of the Month, except October Meeting is the 1st Monday of the Month due to Columbus Day.)

Motion: A motion to approve the 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule as presented was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Approval of 2021-2022 IRSWCD Budget:**

- i. Discussion on 2021-2022 IRSWCD Budget.

Motion: A motion to approve the 2021-2022 IRSWCD Budget as presented was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion to approve allowing Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant to allocate \$750.00 for refrigerator, other office supplies at her discretion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. QuickBooks Upgrade: 1: Online Upgrade - \$199.99 + tax.; 2. Shi Quote: \$398.00 (3years) /3=\$132.67 per year; 3. SCW Quote: \$378.36 (3 years) /3=\$126.12 per year.

Motion: A motion to approve the QuickBooks Upgrade with the lower quote (SCW Quote: \$378.36) as presented to the IRSWCD Board was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Committee Update:** No subsequent meeting held.

- i. FWC Seeks Landowners to Help with Gopher Tortoise Conservation. Relocation of Gopher Tortoise due to development. Post link on IRSWCD website.

Motion: A motion to place the FWC Seeks Landowners to Help with Gopher Tortoise Conservation link onto the IRSWCD website was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. September 24, 2021: September 24, 202: Governor Announces More than \$114 Million for Wastewater Treatment Grants awards made under the Wastewater Grant Program, which was established in the Clean Waterways Act and funded in this year's Florida Budget. A list of the projects funded is linked to the news release. More than \$53 million in funding will be utilized in IRL Communities for projects that remove septic systems and upgrade wastewater treatment plants.
<https://www.flgov.com/2021/09/24/governor-ron-desantis-announces-more-than-114-million-for-wastewater-treatment-grants-to-improve-water-quality-across-the-state/>

- 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. Email received September 29, 2021 from Joy Kokjohn: "SJRWMD staff indicated that public comments would be documented and responses provided in an appendix to CSEC RWP. It is anticipated that the comments/responses appendix will be posted online with the next several weeks."
- C. Recorded Video of IRSWCD Board Meetings: Meetings are no longer recorded by IRC.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

❖ Farm Bill Programs:

- Indian River FY 2021 contract obligations: Approx. \$197,000 on 3,650 ac
- Ft. Pierce FO FY 2021 contract obligations: Approx. \$953,000 on 9,200 ac
- 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: September – October

- 588 acres – Advanced Irrigation Water Management
- 496 acres – Nutrient Management
- 122 acres – Integrated Pest Management

❖ **Other:** Contract Management; EQIP application filed visits FY 22; Attend Urban Agriculture Subcommittee meeting (under the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee) for the purpose of developing a proposal for NRCS Florida to lead efforts for NRCS urban agriculture conservation in Florida.

❖ **Next Month:** Continue 2022 EQIP application field visits; Contract Management; Local Working Group Meetings.

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

- ii. Continue with implementation and verifications. Enroll in BMP nurseries, vegetables, sugarcane, fruit and nuts until next year. FDACS is stricter requirements for producers to obtain Cost-Shares.

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

D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:

- ❖ **FDACS:** Closed out Contract 24393: 2020-2021 \$251,237.21 Total Funds Disbursed to ten producers. New Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2021-2022; Two Producers \$89,082.92, leave a balance of \$10,917.08 to spend. Waiting for FDACS reimbursements \$31,000.0 to pay the balance due to the two producers.

- ❖ **FCDEA: SECDEA Annual Meeting** – Pigeon Forge: November 9 – 10, 2021; **Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Day:** November 30, 2021. reserved a block of 10 rooms for 2 nights at \$117 per person per night, which is a block away from the Donald Tucker Civic Center, in Tallahassee for the Florida Farm Bureau Event on November 30th. I have included a map that has a list of complimentary parking; otherwise, if you park at the hotel it is \$20/day, limited to one vehicle per room. *If interested, contact Linda Caggiano for further information;* **NACD 2022 Annual Meeting:** February 12 – 16, 2022 Orlando, Florida, Hilton Property at Disney Springs: 1. Florida Dinner – Saturday, February 12, 2022; 2. Tour to Florida State Fair – Sunday, February 13, 2022; \$75.00; max. 100 guests; 3. Tour to strawberry fields – Tuesday, February 15, 2022; visit to Fancy Farms, hosted by the Grooms family; \$75.00; max. 100 guests; 4. **Discussion:** AFCD and FDACS is concerned about COVID; people in close proximity to one another on a tour bus for over an hour, may not be advisable; **NACD 2022 SE – Puerto Rico:** NACD Summer Meeting **NACD’s 2022 Summer Meeting** planned for July 16 - 19, 2022. **NACD Southeast Region Meeting** will be held July 17 - 19, 2022 at the **Caribe Hilton** in San Juan, P.R; FCDEA Board Meeting: Thursday, October 14th, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.; Upcoming Teleconference: Third Tuesday of every Month @ 1:00 pm (October 19, 2021).

- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD Poster Contest: Indian River has two (2) 3rd Place Winners. Will be going to Treasurer Coast Elementary to present the checks; AFCD is Liaison for NRCS to plan the next round of Local Working Group Meetings. AFCD will initiate the Zoom meeting. **IRSWCD will hold Local Working Group November 8, 2021 following the Monthly Board Meeting.**

- ❖ **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.

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:36 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date