

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, June 14, 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 1:31 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: David E. Gunter, Chairman
Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chairman (*Joined 1:33 pm*)
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
Jake Fojtik, Environmental Specialist III, Office of
Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS

Public in attendance:

Rob Bolton, City of Vero Beach
Joe Earman, BOCC of IRC
Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman, BOCC of IRC (*Stayed
approximately 10 minutes*)
Lex Kromhout, The Hammock Ranch Preserve, LLC
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Ed Young, Chairman Seminole SWCD, AFCD Area 4
Vice President
City of Sebastian Staff

Public via Zoom:

Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator,
Governmental Affairs Program; SJRWMD
Joy Kokjohn, Regional Water Supply Planning
Coordinator, SJRWMD
Eric Olsen
Patricia Renish, Supervising Hydrologist, SJRWMD
Dorothy Sifuentes, PhD, Associate Director Hydrologic
Studies, Caribbean-FL Water Science Center.

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

A. The minutes for May 10, 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 May 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 Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:**A. Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2020 – Completed:**

- i. Communication to Governing Board Letter.
- ii. Acceptance and Approval of Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates, PLLC Invoice#: 110572, Dated 05/10/2021 - \$4,200.00.

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

B. AFCD Area 4 Meeting set for Friday, June 18, 2021 in Lake County.

- i. Approximately 2 hours and 15-minute drive. St. Johns Water Management District is to attend. Who will be attending the Area 4 Meeting in Lake County? Linda Caggiano and Dr. David L. Cox plan to attend.

C. 2021 AFCD Annual Meeting:

- i. September 9 & 10, 2021: The Plaza Resort & Spa: 600 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118. Supervisors usually attend Annual Meeting to discuss Business, Changes, and By-Laws with other Districts. Who will be attending?

D. Attendance for July 12, 2021 Board Meeting.

- i. Who will be in attendance? Need three for a quorum. Board plans to all be in attendance.

E. July 1st – Supervisors must file: File the Limited Financial Disclosure Form with their Supervisors of Elections Office by July 1, 2021.**6. OLD BUSINESS:****A. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Committee Update:**

- i. Dr. David L. Cox, said that Indian River County - Jones Pier Conservation Area \$61,000.00 project approved by NEP for invasive plant removal. FAU Harbor Branch \$80,000.00 grant, pilot scale seagrass restoration - Cuban Shore Grass project raise in own facility. Shoreline Restoration Project.

B. Supervisors discussion on Water withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer System and Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs) for Indian River County.

- i. Robert C. Adair, Jr. discussed the 2020 Florida Statutes Chapter 582 Soil and Water Conservation: Chapter 582.19 Qualifications and tenure of supervisors.-(5) The supervisors may invite the legislative body of any municipality or county located within or near the territory comprised within the district to designate a representative to advise and consult with the supervisors of the district on all questions of program and policy which may affect the property, water supply, or other interest of such municipality or county.

Motion: A Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Board of County Commissioners to designate a liaison from the Indian River County Utilities to find out exactly what is going on and be able share our knowledge with them in a productive, effective manner. Discussion of topic. Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion Delayed and Seconded. Now Under Discussion.

David E. Gunter, Chairman we need to run through County Commission, Staff person speaking of. Need to request through the County Commission that someone from the Utilities Department that is a knowledgeable individual in the Water Planning Division of Utilities.

Dr. David L. Cox mentioned that the Board of County Commissioners Meeting held on June 8, 2021; Items 8. Consent Agenda, 8.R. Groundwater Modeling and Impact Evaluations with CDM Smith, Amendment No. 2 to Work Order No.5, and 8.S. Well Field and Alternative Water Supply Evaluation were moved to: 12. Departmental Matters, H. Utilities Services. IRSWCD trying to figure out where is the County going into the Lower Floridan Aquifer, but also exploring opportunities of other locations of well withdrawals, build another water treatment facility or building another piping system to take it to existing. That to me means indicates that there really is not a plan in place, but a lot of “work orders”. In our cooperative capacity in communicating with County staff to raise that issue to move towards a plan.

Robert C. Adair, Jr added that there were three plans to model by CDM: 1. Pump from the Lower Floridan Aquifer, 2. Look for a new site, 3. to leave it the way it is and pump at full capacity with the stated goal to be - have minimal impact with existing legal users.

Motion: Motion to Amend the Motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. that we invite the legislative body of the County - Board of County Commissioners to designate a representative from the Indian River County Utilities Department, a liaison, someone who is knowledgeable – “in the know”, decision making individual, who can communicate, and provide information to the Board of County Commissioners, to advise and consult with the IRSWCD Board. IRSWCD can provide/offer advice, knowledge to the County in a productive and effective manner. Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 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.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update from the U.S. Geological Survey on the current status of hydrologic research and monitoring in Indian river County. “What do we know and what do we need to know about our County’s groundwater in 2021?” Dorothy Sifuentes, PhD, Associate Director Hydrologic Studies, Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center. (Invited)

- i. Dr. Dorothy Sifuentes spoke: USGS created by an act of Congress in 1879, USGS has evolved over the decades matching its talent and knowledge to the progress of science and technology. USGS is the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. It is sought out by thousands of partners and customers for its natural science expertise and its vast earth and biological data holdings. The USGS mission is to monitor, analyze, and predict current and evolving dynamics of complex human and natural Earth-system interactions and to deliver actionable intelligence at scales and timeframes relevant to decision makers. Unbiased data, water agency, not regulatory. USGS majority of work is water. Collaborative funding model, funding is water, match up to 50%. Cooperative study non-federal agents. What are the needs of that agency, municipality to match has to be in line with USGS mission. Where would Indian River County even start? USGS would compile data from a lot of different sources. What kind of data is available to have a snap shot of the county water resources. What are the current trends in ground water levels, salinity, etc. Potential for doing an optic survey of ground water levels. Do a survey to find out

where all the wells are to monitor. Report can take approximately 18 months to two years for an initial evaluation.

- ii. **Supervisors Discussion of how to proceed:** Workshop or a USGS Study. David E. Gunter, Chairman stated that IRSWCD can request again, the Board of County Commissioners start the USGS study. In the meantime, IRSWCD can contact Doug Bournique, Governing Board of SJRWMD to ask his Board to assist in a Cost-Share with Indian River County for the USGGS Survey. The SJRWMD Water Supply Plan does not get into the level of reporting that the USGS study does.

Dr. Dorothy Sifuentes ballpark cost \$400,000.00 plus or minus \$100,000.00.

Abby Johnson, SJRWMD spoke to address the questions for Cost-Share Funding for the U.S. Geological Survey; requesting an updated county-wide geohydrological survey. Did take the request for assistance to the leadership of SJRWMD. The response from the SJRWMD leadership is that the Cost-Shares programs specially designed for construction ready projects at this time. The USGS Hydrological Study does not fit, meet our criteria for our Cost-Share Program.

Dr. Dorothy Sifuentes has a follow-up with the County Utilities to see what a study would look like.

8. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 17 of 60 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,300,000 over approximately 12,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 12 Active Contracts; 4 Approved 2021 applications
- ❖ **CSP:** 5 Active Contracts.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** no applications currently.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: May – June:** None
- ❖ Contract Management; Completed EQIP obligations. CSP assessment and ranking
- ❖ **News:**
 - USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production 5/27/2021.
 - USDA Invests \$15 Million through Conservation Innovations Grants Program 5/19/2021.
 - USDA Announces Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction 5/18/2021.

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

- ❖ Cost-Shares verification visits, completing work and should be finishing soon for reimbursement.

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

D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II

- ❖ **FDACS:** CenterState Bank converted over to South State Bank May 31, 2021 FDACS. Trying to work out the problems. Processing Direct Deposits for FDACS . Still working on the General Liability Insurance and FL Dishonesty Insurance required by FDACS New Contract. Total FDACS Funds 2020- June 30, 2021: \$251,237.22 - Balance remaining \$50,151.52 still available. Offices are still closed, working from Home Offices or Out in Field through August 2021.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** *Teleconference Meeting: April 27, 2021 @ 2:00 pm. Next FCDEA Meeting – TBD .*
- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD Area 4 Meeting set for Friday, June 18, 2021 in Lake County. Approximately 2 hour and 15-minute drive. St. Johns Water Management District is to attend. Who will be in attendance? AFCD Meeting in Chiefland Monday, August 2, 2021. AFCD 2021 Annual Meeting: September 8 – 10, 2021 in Daytona Beach, FL. Who will be in attendance?
- ❖ **Office:** Prepare May Board Minutes and letters as per Motions made in meeting. Prepare June Agenda and items for Monday’s meeting. Cost-Share review of files, reimbursing the Producers. Poster Contest finished. Presented the awards to each of the students at Pelican Island and Treasurer Coast Elementary. Audit “Hand Delivered” 6/09/2021. Completed June 10, 2021. All emails and mailouts sent prior to June 30, 2020 deadline to stay in compliance. Still working on quotes for General Liability insurance.

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS: None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date