

# **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, January 10, 2022**

**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 1:34 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:** Robert E. Bruce  
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach  
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC  
Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities

**Public in attendance**

**Via Zoom:** None

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

A. The minutes for December 13, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as Amended.

**Motion: A motion to approve minutes as Amended 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 December 2021 was available and presented by Dr. David L. Cox.

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

**5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:**

A. Financial Audit for year ending 2021. Patrick Graham with Kmetz, Elwell, Graham and Associates, PLLC.

**No Action Taken or Required**

B. IRSWCD Supervisor Seat 1 – Robert E. Bruce appointed Supervisor until next election - November 2022.

- i. Discussion: David E. Gunter, Chairman: Board appointed Robert E. Bruce in last month's meeting. Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. There are several steps that need to take place prior to the Supervisor position to be in place: 1.) A copy of the signed Approved Minutes from the Board Meeting held

on December 13, 2021 that show Robert E. Bruce appointed. 2.) Fully executed Oath of Office and Acceptance of Commission Form DS-DE 56. The oath must be taken before a person authorized by law to administer oaths. 3.) Check made payable to: Florida Department of State in the amount of \$10.00 for the commission fee. When all three documents are ready and sent to the Florida Department of State; the State of Florida will send a Certificate that Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida will commission Robert E. Bruce Board of Supervisor Indian River Soil and Water Conservation. Until that time, you are he cannot vote or make a motion, only participate in discussions.

- C. SB 1078: Soil and Water Conservation Districts:** General Bill by Senator Travis Hutson, District 7 (Flagler, St. Johns Counties and part of Volusia County). Soil and Water Conservation Districts; *Abolishing all soil and water conservation districts in this state; transferring the assets and liabilities of such districts, etc.* **Effective Date:** 7/1/2022; **Last Action:** 12/13/2021 Senate - Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations.

**Motion: A motion to accept the Legislative letter as presented was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.**

- i. Request to Speak: Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach Council Member

Councilwoman Minuse would like for David E. Gunter, Chairman to attend and speak at the January 18, 2022 City Council Meeting to inform City Council what the IRSWCD Board does in Indian River County.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- i. Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Meeting next meeting to be held February 8, 2022.

- B. SJRWMD Water Supply Planning: IRCDUS response August 27, 2021.

**No Action Taken or Required**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

## **8. REPORTS:**

- A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

- ❖ **News:** USDA NRCS State Technical Committee meeting Jan 26 10am-12pm. NRCS will provide a report for natural resource and priority decisions and seek recommendations. Agenda at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/fl/technical/stc/agenda](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/fl/technical/stc/agenda) and includes link and dial-in information to join.
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 20 of 62 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,250,000 over approximately 13,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 13 Active Contracts; 11 eligible applications FY 2022 applications.
- ❖ **CSP:** 7 Active Contracts, 8 FY 2022 applications.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application FY 2022 deadline: December 30, 2021.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: December – January**

- 905 ft – Fence
- 17.2 ac – Brush Management
- ❖ **Other:** EQIP application field visits FY 22; CSP renewal application ranking and approval; Attend FL NRCS Urban AG Subcommittee Meeting; EQIP fast track application approvals (high tunnels).
- ❖ **Next Month:** Complete 2022 EQIP applicant field visits and continue assessments and ranking; Complete contract status reviews; Complete EQIP fast track application approvals (high tunnels); Attend Ethics training.

**B. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy-FDACS: No report.**

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

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

- ❖ **FDACS:** Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2021-2022; Balance of \$10,917.08 to spend. *No new Cost-Share Agreements.*
- ❖ **FCDEA:** Sending letters to Florida Senators and House of Representatives to oppose SB 1078 Sponsored by Senator Travis Hutson, District 7 (Flagler, St. Johns Counties and part of Volusia County). State Representative Keith L. Truenow, District 31 part of Lake and Orange County Sponsored HB 783. SB 1078 that would Abolish Soil and Water Conservation Districts and apparently move their “assets and liabilities” under the Water Management Districts, effective 07/01/2022. NACD 2022 Annual Meeting: February 12 – 16, 2022 Orlando, Florida, Hilton Property at Disney Springs: *NACD Board will eliminate all tours and exhibits for the Annual meeting.* State of Florida will not have its promotional dinner - Fresh from Florida has been cancelled. Still moving ahead with the convention the Early Bird Registration has been extended. Attendance is very low from where they should be at this time. 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: Tuesday, January 18, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.
- ❖ **AFCD:** Held two workshops regarding the pending legislation to dissolve Florida’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts. District talking points will be reviewed one last time by the committee Thursday, January 6, 2022. Will be sent out no later than Friday for Districts to add their highlighted information before sending them out.
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Prepare letters for Board to send to State Legislators. Prepare 1099-G for FDACS Producers of Cost-Share and 1096 Forms. Prepare Poster Contest information to take to elementary schools in January 2022 to promote contest.

**9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:** None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Gunter, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date