

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, February 14, 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 1:41 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
Christine Kelly-Begazo, Agricultural Agent & Director;
UF IFAS Indian River County Extension

Staff in attendance

Via Zoom: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS

Public in attendance:

Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Scott Reynolds, IRC Utilities
Robert Ulevich, Corrigan Ranch
Arjuna Weragoda, City of Vero Beach

Public in attendance

Via Zoom: None

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

A. The minutes for January 10, 2022 Board Meeting were approved as Amended.

Motion: A motion to approve minutes as Amended was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for January 2022 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 by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

5. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. SB 1078: Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Update.

- i. Supervisors Discussion of SB 1078 Amendments and HB 783 to Abolish All Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Florida. SWCD were organized to serve as a grass-roots organizations to provide assistance, guidance, and education to landowners, land occupiers, the agricultural industry, and the general public in

implementing land and water resource protection practices. SWCD work in conjunction with NRCS and FDACS-OAWP to get the farm bill funds to the agricultural producers.

Motion: A motion to change the Agenda to have the reports from NRCS, FDACS, Agricultural Extension, and Staff Assistant to follow the Approval of Minutes and Financial Report was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion to send a letter to Douglas Bournique, Executive Vice-President of Indian River Citrus League to bring before the Board of Directors for the Indian River Citrus League at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Also to send a letter to Douglas Bournique, Vice-President TCRPC. Requesting his support of SWCD's as they stand and support to stop the Florida Legislatures from abolishing or making changes to SWCD's in the State of Florida was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

B. FDACS Checking Account Monthly Bank Fees.

- i. SouthState Bank has been charging a Service Fee for Direct Deposits of October 2021. Four months \$80.42. Board agrees to look at other banks to see if no service charges for use of FDACS Direct Deposits to Producers.

C. Office Supplies.

- i. **Motion: A motion to approve the charge of \$213.04 for office supplies and any additional office supplies using funds from FDACS Admin Fees 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:

- i. Dr. David L. Cox mentioned Indian River Lagoon Council STEM Advisory Meeting held February 8, 2022. Rating applications for funding and approved, impacting water quality of the Lagoon.

Robert Ulevich mentioned that the IRL Management Board Meeting held prior to STEM Meeting. The participation this year was not as aggressive as in previous years. During Budget discussion, Board put money in for Writing Grants and Managing the Grants (Cradle to Grave). Groundwater, wells, etc.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

8. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:

- ❖ **News:** USDA offers Expanded Conservation Program Opportunities to Support Climate-Smart Agriculture in 2022. EQIP Conservation Incentives Contract (CIC) – applications due February 14, 2022.
- ❖ **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: January – February Approx. \$17,000.00**
 - 3 no. – Structures for Water Control
 - 2880 sq. ft – High Tunnel
- ❖ **Other:** EQIP application field visits FY 22; Completed EQIP fast track application approvals (high tunnels), Contract status review; Attend Ethics training.
- ❖ **Next Month:** Complete 2022 EQIP applicant field visits and continue conservation planning, assessments, and ranking; Complete contract status reviews.

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

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

- ❖ **Staff Changes:** Staff Assistant II Violet Krochmalny retired end of January. Yvonne Florian has been training to take over Violet's position. Kaitlyn McCarty, new 4-H Agent started mid-October. Nickie Munroe, Environmental Horticulture Agent teaches all of the Florida Friendly Landscaping Modules and Master Gardeners has been out the past two months on FML. Between the FML and pandemic has really slimmed down the out-reach, very challenging. Christine: Site-visits/pasture visits, Teaching Green Industries BMP: fertilizer and irrigation applications correctly. City of Sebastian municipal employees. 150 Landscapers applied for Landscape BMP Courses on-line course required for Fertilizer License. Retiring in April 2022 if they find a candidate. Teaching the AG BMP and Spring Pasture Management. Beginning Farmer Program at Martin County Correctional Facility

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:** Attended the Senate Meeting January 24, 2022. Spoke to Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and Senator Travis Hutson to oppose SB 1078. NACD 2022 Annual Meeting: Currently being held February 12 – 16, 2022 Orlando, Florida, Hilton Property at Disney Springs: NACD Board *eliminated 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, February 15, 2022 @ 1:00 pm.
- ❖ **AFCD:** Been in Tallahassee speaking to Senators, House of Representatives FDACS, and NACD regarding SB 1078 and HB 783.
- ❖ **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:

- ❖ David E. Gunter, Chairman: Starting the deepening of Well # 7 at the North County wellfield. IRC has a permit to discharge the water in Indian River Farms canal system at 1250 tbs.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:14 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date