

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, May 9, 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

William Marine, Member: IRSWCD – Seat #1

Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David E. Gunter called meeting to order at 1:44 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: David E. Gunter, Chairman
Robert C. Adair, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Lindsey, Member
William Marine, Member

Staff in attendance: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS
Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD
Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III- OAWP-FDACS

Public in attendance: Kaydence Johnson, Student-IR Charter
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC

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

A. There were No Minutes to Approve at this Meeting.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for April 2022 was available and presented by Dr. David L. Cox.

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

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

- ❖ **News:** USDA to Invest up to \$900K for Conservation Innovation Grants that Address Florida Agriculture Resource Priorities Gainesville, FL April 15, 2022. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Florida will invest up to \$900,000 for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for Florida’s agricultural resource priorities. Fiscal Year 2022 conservation resource priorities for the NRCS in Florida are: climate resilience, grazing, soil health, and urban agriculture. The deadline to submit a proposal is by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, August 31, 2022.
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 19 of 55 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,110,000 over approximately 12,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 13 Active Contracts; 9 eligible applications FY 2022 applications (2 Preapproved, 1 approved).
- ❖ **CSP:** 6 Active Contracts, 2 FY 2022 applications.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: April – May**
 - 10.3 ac – Irrigation Water Management.
 - 1 – Livestock Water Well.

- ❖ **Other:** Continue EQIP Urban sign up application field visits. Continue EQIP and CSP contract obligation.
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue contract maintenance; Continue implementation inspections; EQIP Urban application conservation plans, assessment and ranking.

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

- ❖ Continuing Implementation Verifications on Cost-Shares. Preparing for end of Fiscal Year. Waiting for funds for New Fiscal Year – July 1, 2022.

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 \$4,200.00 to CPA. Used all 2021-2022 FDACS Fiscal Year funds. July 1, 2022 starts new funding.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** FCDEA Mid-Year Meeting: Wednesday – Friday; May 11 - 13, 2022; Marion County BOCC; Ocala, FL. (*Attending*). 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.
- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD is working with FDACS on SB 1078. How the bill effects SWCD's and each Supervisor placed in a District that follows the County's Board of County Commissioner Districts. The interpretation of the bill much different than Legislature Attorney, Natalie Kato's Analysis. Area 5 Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. located at: UF/IFAS 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula, FL 33873. (*Attending*) 2022 AFCD Annual Meeting will be held September 7-9, 2022. Located at: Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel 4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606 (*To be Determined if Attending*) 2023 AFCD Mid-Year Meeting which will include Supervisor Training will be held January 24-27, 2023. Located at: Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel 4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606 (*Attending*).
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Prepare AFR and packages for mailing to State and emails as required per Audit. To be completed Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Completed 2022-2023 County Budget. Increased Budget by \$1,495.00: Travel Increased by \$972.00; Office Supplies by \$493.00, and Registration Fees by \$30.00. Working on IRSWCD Employee Hand Book and Job description per FDACS. General Election deadlines approaching. Supervisors need to file paperwork. Looking into Banks that do not charge monthly fees for checking not Treasury ACH. Weekly phone calls for Soil Testing, which we do not do.

6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Financial Audit for Year Ending 2021:

- i. Audit from Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates, PLLC sent documents to IRSWCD office. All emails and mailings will be complete by May 10, 2022. Board to review Audited Financial Report.

Motion: A motion to approve the Audited Financial Report as presented was made by Bobby Lindsey and Seconded by William Marine. Motion carried unanimously.

B. IRSWCD Domain Registration:

- i. IRSWCD Domain is with Hover. Expires July 16, 2022. Renew \$15.92 plus tax for one year.

Motion: A motion to approve the renewal of IRSWCD Domain through Hover.com for one year at \$15.92 plus tax was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

C. SB 1078: Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Update.

D. Palm Beach SWCD: Retained Natalie Kato, Tallahassee, FL (Legislative, lobbying and governmental affairs.)

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. Next Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Water quality in the Lagoon.

B. Commissioner Laura Moss spoke regarding May 28, 2021 letter IRSWCD sent to her to contact U.S. Geological Survey and request an updated county-wide geohydrologic survey as per the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Motion: A motion was made by Robert C. Adair, Jr. for the IRSWCD Board to recommend conducting an Updated Hydrological Study of the County that would study the water availability to the County from the Upper Floridan Aquifer. The recipient will be Sean Lieske, Director of Indian River County Water Utilities. The motion was Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:46 PM.

David E. Gunter, Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date