

# **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, September 12, 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 1:31 PM.

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

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

**Public in attendance:** Mike Johannsen, IR Neighborhood Assoc.  
Honey Minuse, City of Vero Beach  
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC

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

A. The minutes for August 8, 2022 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 August 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. REPORTS:****A. Jennifer Abbey, NRCS – Reports:**

- ❖ News: Agricultural Landowners Encouraged to Apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program by September 30 (Date Extended)
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 19 of 62 Active contracts totaling approximately \$900,000 over approximately 11,000 acres.
- ❖ **EQIP:** 14 Active Contracts; 9 eligible applications FY 2022 applications;
- ❖ **CSP:** 5 Active Contracts.
- ❖ **ACEP-WRE:** 1 application, deferred to 2023.
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: August - September**
  - 33 ac – Brush Management
  - 190 ac – Legume Planting
  - 730 ac – Prescribed Grazing
  - 113 ac – Forage harvest management for wildlife cover, shelter
- ❖ **Other:** Continued visiting applicants for FY 2023 programs and starting conservation plans; Continued implementation inspections; Continued contract maintenance; Added FY 23 Ranking Tool tutorial meeting.
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue contract maintenance; Continue implementation inspections; Continue visiting applicants for FY 2023 programs; Attend NRCS State Conservationist Advisory Group Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> meeting).

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

- ❖ New enrollment
- ❖ Accepting Cost-Share applications

**C. Andrea Lazzari-Estevez, IRC Agricultural Extension Director/ UF IFAS Report:**

- ❖ No Report.

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

- ❖ **FDACS:** Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2022-2023; Received 1 Cost-Share Agreement, Allocated; - \$4,431.00; On Wednesday, August 17, 2022 attended the FDACS/Office of Agricultural Water Policy Proposed Rule Development Meeting in Gainesville, FL: FDACS required to have Districts subdivided and enforced by 01/01/2023. Only Judges can make decision if Supervisor is living in the correct District. Legislatures may go back next session and clarify the language. Constitutes or someone who was “affected” by the new law could take to the courts. Bill does not give FDACS authority to discuss anything but the mapping of the Districts. Questions that SWCD’s sent to FDACS were not answered. Only questions that would be answered that day had to be related to the District mapping; FDACS does not want SWCD’s to retain Natalie Kato as a lobbyist for the SWCD’s. In general, recipients of federal funds are not allowed to use said federal funding to lobby federal, state, or local officials or their staff to receive additional funding or influence legislation. But as long as a Lobbyist Disclosure/Disclosure of Contracts for Lobbyist is filed, these individuals are full-time employees of the District.
- ❖ **FCDEA:** FCDEA Meeting held August 16, 2022; FCDEA Annual Meeting via TEAMS/Teleconference September 20, 2022; SECDEA Meeting in Pigeon Forge, TN November 8-10, 2022.
- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD and NRCS require Local Working Group Meeting: IRSWCD will hold LWG Meeting 10/03/2022 @ 2:30p.m. following Monthly Board Meeting; 2023 AFCD Annual Meeting will be held January 24-27, Cancelled September 7-9, 2022 due to Elections and New Supervisors Training in January. Located at: Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel 4200 NW 97<sup>th</sup> Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Envirothon Kick-Off Meeting, Thursday, September 15, 2022 Marsh Landing @ 12:00 p.m.; Working with FCDEA and AFCD on Election information, Benefits of Lobbyist Contract and Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA); Working on LWG list of Cooperators; Keeping track of dates deadlines to stay in compliance.

**Discussion:** Dr. David L. Cox mentioned to contact Donna Halleran, Executive Director of Pelican Island Audubon Society and Environmental Learning Center for a Science Team to go to the schools and teach the Envirothon material to the student’s afterschool. Side sub-committee to teach the students. School Club announcements this month.

Commissioner Laura Moss works with the Indian River County School District. Send the Envirothon information to her and she will get to the School Board.

**6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:**

**A. Local Working Group FY 2024:**

- i. Will be held October 3, 2022 following the IRSWCD Board Meetings. Information has been sent via email to Cooperators.

**B. Indian River SWCD: Need to find Supervisors - Discussion**

- i. District 3 (Joe Earman) – Vacant
- ii. District 4 (Peter O’Bryan) – Vacant

**C. Palm Beach SWCD: Review for Discussion**

**Motion: A motion by Bobby Lindsey to refrain from any involvement in the Lobbyist Contract on the Legislative Contract with Natalie Kato was Seconded by Robert C. Adair, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update:**

- i. Dr. David L. Cox reported: 2022 EPA 5-Year Performance Evaluation: Every five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviews the performance of the IRLNEP to insure its effectiveness and efficiency in implementing its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). This evaluation covers the periods between fiscal years 2017 – 2021. Reviewing word documents strategic level every 5 years

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:**

**A.** Robert C. Adair, Jr. discussed Dundee Citrus Growers Association (CGA) will double the area growing fresh citrus under protective screen (CUPS). 622 acre parcel will contain 500 acres of CUPS. UF/IFAS trials have demonstrated that CUPS can keep trees free of HLB-spreading Asian citrus psyllids. CUPS growing method produces a consistent, high-quality fruit supply, uses less land, water , and fertilizer to produce each piece of fruit.” (Steve Callaham, Dundee CGA CEO)

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:12 PM.

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

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Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date