

# **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, February 13, 2023**

**1:30 PM**

### **Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors**

*Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman  
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer  
William Marine, Member*

**Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. called meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

**Supervisors in attendance:** Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman  
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer  
William Marine, Member

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD  
Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS  
Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director; UF/IFAS

**Public in attendance:** Rob Bolton, City of Vero Beach  
Ken Hendrix, Vero Beach Resident  
Honey Minuse, Vero Beach Resident  
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC  
Herb Whittall, Indian River Neighborhood Association

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

A. The Minutes for Board Meeting of January 9, 2023 were approved as written.

**Motion: A Motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by William Marine. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

A. The Financial Report for January 2023 was available and presented by Dr. David L. Cox.

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

**5. REPORTS:**

**A. Jennifer Abbey, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Reports:**

- ❖ **News:** WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages urban producers, innovative producers and other stakeholders to virtually attend the fourth public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Committee) on Feb. 23, 2023. The meeting will be held from 3:30-6 p.m. ET on February 23. To attend virtually, register by February 23 on the [Committee's webpage](#).
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 19 of 53 Active contracts totaling approximately \$900,000 over approximately 11,000 acres
- ❖ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** 14 Active Contracts; 14 FY 2023 applications
- ❖ **EQIP Hurricane Ian:** 3 of 9 applications
- ❖ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** 5 Active Contracts FY 2023 application deadline February 24
- ❖ **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP – WRE):** 1 application
- ❖ **Conservation Applications:** January - February

- 14.1 ac - Herbaceous Weed Control
  - 8.6 ac – Prescribed Burn
  - ❖ **Other:** Completed ranking of Hurricane Ian EQIP applications; Completed CSP annual contract payments; Conducted active contract status reviews and annual practice reminder letters; Continue conservation implementation field inspections; Continue EQIP application evaluations; Planning meeting for BMP outreach event to Equine operations in Martin County led by UF IFAS; Attended FI Farm Bureau luncheon
  - ❖ **Next Month:** Continue conservation implementation field inspections; Continue EQIP application evaluations and ranking; Complete contract status reviews.
- B. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS):**
- ❖ OAWP we have a new director, West Gregory, but there have been no changes to our mission and still working on enrollments.
- C. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/ University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:**
- ❖ Nickie Munroe, Environmental Horticulture Agent and Kaitlyn McCarty, 4-H Youth Development Agent will be helping with Envirothon this year.
  - ❖ March 7, 2023: Beekeeping Basics with UF/IFAS IRC Extension.
  - ❖ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC): At the December 2021 meeting, the Commission approved a final proposal to require bycatch reduction devices in recreational blue crab traps starting March 1, 2023, along with diamondback terrapin conservation proposals (effective March 1, 2022) that are part of a larger approach to prevent further decline of the species.
  - ❖ Need assistance/who to contact that can assist with measuring soil salinity using electrical conductivity of aqueous extracts from soil samples and measurement of total dissolved solids in the saturated soil extract.
    - Chairman Adair mentioned: Dr. Sandra Guzman, Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce, FL
- D. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:**
- ❖ **Office of Agricultural Water Policy – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: (OAWP-FDACS):** Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2022-2023; Received 5 Cost-Share Agreements: Totaling \$47,931.72; Paid 2 Cost-Share Agreements \$7,371.20; Enrollments in Cost-Share will continue. FDACS Cost-Share Meeting held Monday, 2/06/2023 in Gainesville; FDACS wants ALL SWCD's to use same internal formatted forms.
  - ❖ **Florida Conservation District Employee Association (FCDEA):** Annual Meeting held February 7, 2023 in Gainesville, FL
  - ❖ **Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD):** 2023 AFCD Annual Meeting & Supervisor training held February 6-8, 2023 in Gainesville, FL
    - FDACS meeting @ NRCS Building 9:00 A.M.; AFCD Annual Meeting 1:00 P.M.; Dr. Robert E. Lee, ICMA-CM; Moderator; David Ramba, Ramba Consulting; 2023 Certified Supervisor Program- Jeffrey Hendry, John Scott Daily, Florida Institute of Government, Florida State University; NRCS-USDA State Conservationist: Juan Hernandez; Allen Moore, Former Duval Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor; New District Official Training- Dr. Robert E. Lee, ICMA-CM Florida Sunshine Law, Records, and Ethics Training- Dr. Robert E. Lee, ICMA-CM; OPPAGA, Audit Presentation: Emily Leventhal, Staff Director; Government Operations; David Delaney, J.D.: The Do's and Don'ts of Social Media; Laura Gambino, MPA, CECD, FRA: Effective Board Meetings; Jeb Smith, President, Florida Farm Bureau; Betty Jo Tompkins, Hillsborough SWCD: Fundraising
    - *Consensus that 2023 Legislation will require a Certified Training of ALL SWCD Supervisors; Farm Bill to stop Foreigners from purchasing farm land. Currently*

*Canada, Netherlands, Italy are the most Foreign Countries purchasing large acreage of Farm Land.*

- ❖ **ENVIROTHON:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 Meeting @ Marsh Landing; Competition Day, Friday, February 24, 2022 @ Dale Wimbrow Park: Volunteers – NRCS-USDA, Jennifer Abbey; IRC-Agricultural Extension: Nickie Munroe, Kaitlyn McCarty
- ❖ **OFFICE:** 2022 Audit: Patrick Graham - updates. QuickBooks Desktop Pro Plus 2022 Renewed through checking account; Account is up-to-date. FDACS Cost-Shares, IRS 1099-G forms and 1096 mailed 01/19/2023 prior to deadline of Jan. 31 and Feb. 28, 2023. Need to update forms due to Meeting. Poster Contest: Prepared documents. Ready to go to all the elementary schools by end of February 2023.

## **6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:**

### **A. Indian River SWCD – Need to find Supervisor for District 3 and 4 (*Discussion*):**

- i. District 3 (Commissioner Joe Earman’s District): District 4 (Commissioner Deryl Loar’s District)

**Chairman Adair:** Ken Hendrix lives in District 3 and has submitted his Bio. He satisfies the requirements of living in the District 3 area and actively engaged in agriculture and has been over ten years. Ken Hendrix has experience in LDR’s and working with Indian River County Staff.

The IRSWCD Board did send a letter to Janie Greene, if she would consider sitting on the IRSWCD Board, but she did decline. IRSWCD sent an email reply to Ms. Greene: “The District would like to have more Producers engaged and attend IRSWCD Monthly Board Meetings to provide the District any feedback of issues or needs that Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS) and United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA – NRCS) can be of assistance to you or other Producers.” One of my goals is to get more of the community involved. We have Commissioner Laura Moss, Herb Whittall from Indian River Neighborhood Association, Rob Bolton City of Vero Beach Utilities. Would like to get someone from Indian River County Utilities Department to attend IRSWCD meetings

**Motion: A Motion to appoint Ken Hendrix as Supervisor for District 3 was made by William Marine and Seconded by Dr. David I. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Chairman Adair:** Asked Mr. Ken Hendrix if he accepts the IRSWCD Board Motion to the appointment of Supervisor?

Mr. Hendrix replied, “Yes, he accepts willingly”.

- ii. Letters sent via email 01/26/2023 to: Commissioner Laura Moss, Commissioner Peter O’Brian, Ms. Janie Greene, and Mr. Michael Marine

### **B. AFCD Annual Meeting Update (02/06/2023 to 02/08/2023):**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- i. Dr. David L. Cox reported: Meeting held February 7, 2023; RFP Selection Process: Water Quality Restoration (Martin and St. Lucie County), Shoreline Restoration (Brevard) including Seagrass plantings

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. IRSWCD 2023 Goals to prioritize Urban Agriculture as presented to the Board of Supervisors. Prioritize 1-7**

- ❖ Consider procurement of outside funding to put a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) in place for Indian River County.(Discussion)
  - MIL goals include: Educational Program, vehicle, calibrate irrigation systems. Does Indian River County need a MIL? Can a MIL make a difference?  
Educate to: A) Prevent the problem and B.) Fix the problem.
  - Target Audience: HOA Boards/Committees and Property Management Association.
  - SJRWMD stopped advertising the Water Conservation efforts e.g.: Irrigate twice a week Commercials/TV Ads; Promotion of media ads and radio.
- ❖ Funding to secure a staff member to operate the MIL.
- ❖ Consideration for a native tree sale for county residents to promote water conservation and carbon sequestration.
- ❖ Pursue grants and funding to promote the conservation (and reduce the use) of irrigation water for urban areas.
- ❖ Pursue grants and funding to mitigate contaminants entering Indian River Lagoon.
- ❖ Pursue grants and funding to seek ways to increase carbon sequestration on county lands.
- ❖ Pursue grants and funding that accomplish our mission to provide resources, planning, assessment, assisting citizens to apply conservation and preservation technology, and to educate the citizens in these technologies.
  - Dr. David L. Cox, Chairman of the “Outside Funding Procurement Committee”.  
Look into what is available, what the priorities are, where we can go directly and will report back to the IRWCD Board. Reach out to Sean Lieske, see who the liaison would be and see if Utilities would be interested. Irrigation of landscape is the largest consumption of water. Consider Xeriscape landscaping, pressurized reuse water system for the County to incorporate.

**B. Board Supervisors: Other goals deemed suitable.**

**9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:**

- A. William Marine would like to have Agri Services International, be a part of the funding for the MIL, not a grant, but a “Gift”.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:16 PM.

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Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

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Date

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David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

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Date