

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, April 10, 2023

1:30 PM

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman: District 1

Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer: District 2

Charles Kennon Hendrix, Member: District 3

Vacant: District 4

William Marine, Member: District 5

Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. called meeting to order at 1:38 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer
William Marine, Member
Charles Kennon Hendrix, 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, Indian River Neighborhood Association
Honey Minuse, Vero Beach Resident
Laura Moss, IRC Commissioner

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

A. The Minutes for Board Meeting of March 13, 2023 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve minutes was made by William Marine and Seconded by Charles Kennon Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for February 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 Charles Kennon Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

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

- ❖ **News:** The next Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production will be held April 18, 2023.
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 20 of 56 Active contracts totaling approximately \$900,000 over approximately 11,000 acres
- ❖ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** 15 Active Contracts; 14 FY 2023 applications
- ❖ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** 5 Active Contracts; 8 applications FY 2023 applications
- ❖ **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP – WRE) :** 1 application
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: March – April**
 - None
- ❖ **Other:** Obligation of 3 Hurricane Ian EQIP applications; Continue EQIP and CSP application evaluations; BMP outreach event to Equine operations in Martin County led by UF IFAS; Started EQIP application ranking; Assist with second level review for Hurricane Ian EQIP obligation.

- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue conservation implementation field inspections; Continue EQIP application evaluations and ranking; Attend Florida Envirothon event in Gainesville, FL; Attend Citrus Show, tailgate booth Ft. Pierce, FL
- B. Adel Peña, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS):**
- ❖ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - The Office of Agricultural Water Policy Director is West Gregory. Previously worked for DEP, has a law background. Stop and complete enrollments from last DEP mailout. Complete Implementation and Verification Process; nutrient records in compliance process by end of April 2023. Meeting May 15, 2023 in Tallahassee.
 - ❖ Meeting with OAWP Director suggest that the Indian River SWCD Board wondering what type of BMP is happening with solar panels and how that would fit in with the BMP Policy? New landowners that are buying once active agricultural land, that are planning who knows what? How do we work with them?
- C. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/ University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:**
- ❖ No Report.
- 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 7 Cost-Share Agreements: Totaling \$100,255.73 balance available of - \$255.73; Paid 3 Cost-Share Agreements \$21,702.27; Audit will be paid from FDACS Funds.
 - ❖ **Florida Conservation District Employee Association (FCDEA):** Meeting April 25, 2023 Teleconference
 - ❖ **Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD):** Thursday, May 11, 2023 - Area 4 Meeting Everglades Research & Education Center: 3200 E Palm Beach Road, Belle Glade, FL 33430; Area Poster Contest Judging; Tuesday, Wednesday, September 26 and 27, 2023 - 2023 AFCD Fall Partner Workshop and Training at the UF Hilton, Gainesville, Florida
 - ❖ **Envirothon:** Completed until October 2023 Meetings.
 - ❖ **Office:** 2022 Audit: Will send signed Management letters to Patrick Graham after meeting. Need to update the Annual Financial Report in the New Logger system. Final Audit will be delivered to office and need to email and postal mail as required. FDACS Cost-Shares. All Public and Private schools have been emailed with Poster Contest information. Facebook and website updated. County Budget due by April 14, 2023. Need to contact Leslie Swan for a list of District 4 voters. If any Agricultural Residents that may want to serve on the IRSWCD Board. Monthly Meetings Agenda, Minutes.

6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Financial Audit for Year Ending 2022:

- i. Management letter to be sent to Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates, PLLC. Audit package to be provided during the week.

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

- i. District 4: Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. spoke to the IRC Property Appraiser's office. Requested a report of Agricultural Owners in District 4. When report is received send to all Supervisors.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. Dr. David L. Cox reported: Next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2023.

B. IRSWCD 2023 Goals - Urban Agriculture as presented to the Board of Supervisors.

- ❖ How to bring Urban Agricultural into participation with BMP's, especially water conservation.
- ❖ SJRWMD Water Conservation month of April.
- ❖ IRSWCD to consider holding a Water Conservation forum with ALL stake-holders present :
 - Topics:
 - Water Conservation in the County, Water withdrawals from the Upper Floridan Aquifer system and Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs) for Indian River County.
 - Water use in the County, water irrigation, future of water supply, are they going to keep pumping, what is the current situation is, problems with over withdrawal from Counties North of Indian River County, as well as our County how to avoid adverse impact. Why it may be a good idea to have a hydrology study; content for forum. Date to be determined. Chairman, Robert C. Adair, Jr. to put the content and speakers together. Dr. David L. Cox would oversee the funding working together with Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director; UF|IFAS IRC Extension Agent II . Agency collective: Jennifer Abbey, USDA-NRCS, Adel Pena, FDACS, SJRWMD, and Indian River County Utilities to make the forum more focused.
- ❖ Commissioner Laura Moss mentioned that the New County Administrator starts April 17, 2023. Should hold a meeting with the following in attendance: Commissioner Laura Moss, County Administrator John Titkanich, Sean Lieske, and Robert C. Adair, Jr. Provide list of objective and goals as to why the County needs a hydrology study.
- ❖ Key approach for SWCD outreach: social media. How our board can function better to educate new land owners and to protect the lagoon. The problem is not the current agricultural owners, but the new small farm owners that we need to make aware conservation and BMP's for their newly purchased agricultural land.
- ❖ Invite someone from FPL to discuss solar farms. How many more acres does FPL plan to install in Indian River County and adjoining counties? How and what practices are they using to maintain a weed free zone? Are they using - herbicides? Are they monitored?

Motion: A motion to approve and support having Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. meet with the County Administrator John Titkanich and Commissioner Laura Moss to discuss the prospect of updating the USGS Geohydrological Study and protocol on how to proceed was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by William Marine. Motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Receiving a lot of down play from people regarding the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) in place for Indian River County. People prefer the Water Conservation forum. Leaning towards a Stake Holders Water Use, Supply, Conservation forum.
 - MIL goals include: Educational Program, vehicle, calibrate irrigation systems. Does Indian River County need a MIL? Can a MIL make a difference? Do we educate to: prevent the problem or B.) fix the problem?
 - Target Audience: HOA Boards/Committees and Property Management Association.
 - SJRWMD stopped advertising the Water Conservation efforts via Commercials/TV Ads; e.g.: Irrigate twice a week; Promotion of media ads and radio.
 - Will need funding to secure a staff member to operate the MIL and vehicle.

- ❖ 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.

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. asked Dr. David L. Cox to handle and prioritize the above four grant topics items as he sees fit.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr mentioned that in his absence, ordinarily Dr. David L. Cox would take his place. Currently, our board does not have a Vice-Chairman appointed. What would the board like to do? Leave “as is” until a District 4 member is appointed or vote now for a Vice-Chairman?

Motion: A motion to have Dr. David L. Cox serve as Chairman in the absence of Robert C. Adair, Jr. Leave the current officers “as is” until a full five (5) Member Board is filled was made by William Marine and Seconded by Charles Kennon Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:02 PM.

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date