

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, August 14, 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

Vacant: District 5

Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. called meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman
Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer
Charles Kennon Hendrix, Member

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD
Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director; UF/IFAS

Public in attendance: Mike Johannsen, Indian River Neighborhood Association
Honey Minuse, Vero Beach Resident

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

A. The Minutes for Board Meeting of July 10, 2023 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by Charles Kennon Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for July 2023 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

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

B. The Financial Report for June 2023 was available and read by Dr. David L. Cox.

Motion: A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Charles Kennon Hendrix 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 – (*Report was emailed and read into the Minutes*):**

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 25 of 65 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,160,000 over approximately 11,300 acres
- ❖ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** 17 Active Contracts
- ❖ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** 8 Active Contracts; 1 preapproved FY 2023 application
- ❖ **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP – WRE) :** 1 application
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: May – August**
 - 2 no. – Well and solar livestock watering system
- ❖ **Other:** Completed EQIP contract obligations, Completed CSP contract obligations, Internal Civil Rights office review.
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue conservation implementation field inspections; Start FY 2024 EQIP application field visits, Internal office Quality Assurance Review, Existing contract management.

**B. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/
University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:**

- ❖ County Reorganization: Michael Zito, Deputy County Administrator will be responsible for Citizen Services: Community Services, Emergency Services, Sandridge Golf Course and Parks, Recreation & Conservation – Beth Powell, Interim General Services Director is responsible for Agricultural Extension. Ms. Lazzari explained pros and cons for the placement of IFAS Extension each of the two services, either: Parks, Recreation & Conservation or Natural Resources.
- ❖ Florida Agritourism Association First Annual Conference in Gainesville July 2023.
- ❖ Annual Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School Certification held at Deseret Ranch.
- ❖ Florida Master Gardner Program Class resumed this summer– largest class yet.
- ❖ 4-H Ag-Awareness, Florida 4-H Legislature, Florida 4-H Intermediate Leadership Conference
- ❖ Beekeeping Basics

C. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:

- ❖ **County Reorganization:** Assistant County Administrator (not yet appointed) will be responsible for Infrastructure and Development Services: Planning & Development Services, Public Works, Utility Services, and Natural Resources (Newly Created) is responsible for Soil and Water Conservation
- ❖ **Office of Agricultural Water Policy – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: (OAWP-FDACS):** Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2022-2023; Paid 9 Cost-Share Agreements \$132,504.98; Contract 27690: \$100,000.00 for 2023-2024; Paid Out \$32,504.98 from prior year. Have 2 Cost-Share Agreements totaling \$39,038.96 for the FY 2023-2024. Balance of 428,456.06 remaining for Cost-Share FY 2024. Interviews held Wednesday August 2, 2023 for the Environmental Specialist III position. Hopefully, will have someone in the office in the next month or two. Focusing on IV's in BMAP's.
- ❖ **Florida Conservation District Employee Association (FCDEA):** Terminated Hillsborough Employee had membership revoked. Monday September 25, 2023 FCDEA Annual Meeting will be held in Gainesville.
- ❖ **Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD):** Tuesday, Wednesday, September 26 and 27, 2023 - 2023 AFCD Fall Partner Workshop and Training at the UF Hilton, Gainesville, Florida
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Monthly Meetings Agenda, Minutes. FDACS Cost-Shares. Need Supervisor for District 4 and District 5. OPPAGA: Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability - October 1, 2023 they will start audit of each SWCD in the State of Florida. Need to create a Strategic Plan to have available for OPPAGA. NACD announced the 2024 Conservation: “May The Forest Be With You Always.”

6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Approval of Liability and Dishonesty Insurance Policy Renewal:

Motion: A motion to approve and pay the Western Surety Bond Policy (Supervisors) in the amount of \$384.00 and the Liberty Mutual Crime/Dishonesty Policy in the amount of \$503.50 was made by Charles Kennon Hendrix and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Indian River SWCD – Need Supervisor for District 4 & 5:

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. Dr. David L. Cox reported: Meeting held August 8, 2023 in Valkaria, FL. SJRWMD reported some initial seagrass growth in both Mosquito Lagoon and Banana River STEM AC suggested forming a local seagrass task force to complement the statewide seagrass task force.

B. IRSWCD Goals and Priorities for consideration by the Board of Supervisors in 2023. (Still waiting for all the polls to be turned in.)

- How to bring Urban Agricultural into participation with BMP's, especially water conservation.
- IRSWCD to consider holding a Water Conservation forum with ALL stake-holders present.
- Best 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.
- Pursue funding for a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) in place for Indian River County. People prefer the Water Conservation forum. Leaning towards a Stakeholders Water Use, Alternative Water Supply, and 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:
 - A.) 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.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. SUPERVISORS MATTERS:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:07 PM.

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

Date

David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Date