

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 8, 2024

1:30 PM

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

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

Dr. David L. Cox, Vice Chairman: District 2

Charles Kennon Hendrix, Member: District 3

Christine Kelly-Begazo, Secretary/Treasurer: District 4

George F. Hamner, Jr., Legislative Liaison: District 5

Linda Caggiano, District Staff Assistant II: IRSWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. called meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

Supervisors in attendance: Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman
Charles Kennon Hendrix
Christine Kelly-Begazo

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II
Eric Charest, IRC Interim Natural Resources Director
Melissa Meisenburg, IRC Senior Environmental Specialist
Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS
Matt Cox, Environmental Specialist III- OAWP-FDACS
Stephen Wright, Environmental Specialist II-OAWP-FDACS

Public in attendance: Marcel Barbier, Clean Water Coalition of IRC
Robert J. Bolton, City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Director

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

A. The Minutes for the Board Meeting of March 11, 2024 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve the March 11, 2024 Minutes was made by Charles Kennon Hendrix and Seconded by Christine Kelly-Begazo . Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for March 2024 was available and reviewed by the Board.

Motion: A motion to accept the February 2024 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)**

- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 24 of 56 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,190,000 over approximately 11,900 acres
- ❖ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** 15 Active Contracts
- ❖ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** 9 Active Contracts
- ❖ **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP – WRE) :** 0 application
- ❖ **Conservation Applications: March – April**
 - None
- ❖ **Other:** Continue conservation implementation field inspections and FY 2024 EQIP application field visits. Completed ranking for CSP applications. Attend and staff booth at Citrus Show April 3. Attend Florida Envirothon competition in Apollo Beach
- ❖ **Next Month:** Continue FY 2024 EQIP application field visits. Complete ranking for EQIP applications. Continue conservation implementation field inspections as needed.

- B. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/ University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:**
- ❖ Scheduled Interviews later this month for a 4-H agent.
 - ❖ Small Farm Conference: Finalizing a date (probably a Thursday in September) at the IG Center.
- C. Matthew Cox, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**
- ❖ Raulie Raulerson is taking over Vanessa Stephens' position.
- D. Stephen Wright, Environmental Specialist II, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**
- ❖ OAWP-FDACS mailout letter was sent out 03/29/2024 to all Agricultural landowners. Deadline to reply to Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (CRI) April 30, 2024.
- E. Melissa Meisenburg, Indian River County Senior Environmental Specialist:**
- ❖ Presentation from St. John's River Water Management District: Water Conservation Coordination Meeting.
 - ❖ Landscape Irrigation Ordinance 319.03: SJRWMD Home Watering Restrictions. Watering is allowed before 10:00 A.M. or after 4:00 P.M.
 - ❖ Water Conservation: Irrigation regulations, Landscaping ordinances. FDEP Florida Friendly Landscaping. SJRWMD Water Star. IFAS H2OSAV.
 - ❖ Water Star is certification program for homeowners, builders and commercial landscapers promoting water conservation indoors and outdoors
 - Education: Key component in water conservation. Irrigation should be supplemental to average rainfall. Work with IFAS to educate the public
 - Certification: Builders; Inspectors, and/or Irrigation installers
 - ❖ The Future: Statewide campaign- Local input
 - Statewide water restrictions because of increasing growth and pressure on the aquifer
 - Local government can add their logo to the water conservation materials created by the SJRWMD - Graphic designers available
 - ❖ IFAS Center for Land Use Efficiency
 - Dr. Nick Taylor
 - H2O SAV: Water Savings, Analytics and Verification: Reviews data from local utilities and government to understand past water use and address excessive consumption.
 - Targeted education and outreach
 - Proper irrigation cycle applies ½" of water to an average lot
 - Many property owners are over irrigating - Proper irrigation cycle = 991 gallons of water. 991 gallons of water = 8.5-hour shower.
 - ❖ SJRWMD grants are focusing on water conservation: Smart controllers, Reclaim water.
 - ❖ Chairman Adair commented that Ms. Meisenburg's review of the District's Water Star certification program was well done and that the District's program provides a practical and valuable approach to water conservation for Indian River County as well as the District. He again asked that a representative from the Indian River County Utilities Department be invited by mail to attend our monthly meetings.
- F. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:**
- ❖ **FDACS:** Contract 27690: \$315,041.26; Disbursed \$279,226.72 in funds. Balance \$35,814.54 for FY 2024 Cost-Share FY 2023-2024. 03/29/2024 Mailout to Agricultural Landowners within the IRL Basin Management Action Plan.
 - ❖ **FCDEA:** March 24-25, 2024 FCDEA Mid-Year Meeting in Gainesville.
 - ❖ **AFCD:** Area 4 meeting will be held May 23rd from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm CST. At 4505 George Blvd. Sebring, FL 33875. You will need to bring a brown bag lunch. The

required four-hour ethics training will be provided during the meeting, free of charge. The agenda is currently being drafted and will be sent out in a few weeks. The free training offer and contests are open to all Districts, however, if your District wishes to participate in any AFCD Business, please send in your Districts 2024 Dues. AFCD is hosting the 2024 NACD Southeast Regional Meeting being held in Gainesville, FL from Sunday - June 16, 2024 through Tuesday - June 18, 2024. Will need FCDEA to assist with Registration, etc. those days.

- ❖ **ENVIROTHON:** No updates until October 2024.
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Monthly Meetings Agenda, Minutes. FCDEA Agenda and Minutes. Poster Contest Conservation theme for 2024 Poster Contest: “May The Forest Be With You Always.” Poster Deadline - March 15, 2024. No posters received. OPPAGA Audit: Second Virtual Meeting held week of March 18, 2024. FDACS required Audit with Kmetz Elwell , Graham & Associates, PLLC.: In progress. Election: Districts 2, 3, 4 & 5 are up for General Election November 5, 2024

6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. OPPAGA Update (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability): (No action required.)

- i. Audit with State in process.

B. Financial Audit for year ending 2023 (per FDACS contract):

- i. Review of Draft Audit. Pending changes from Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates, PLLC. (No action required.)

C. USDA-NRCS Local Working Group Meeting:

- i. Local Working Group Meeting to be held May 13, 2024.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update:

- i. No Update.

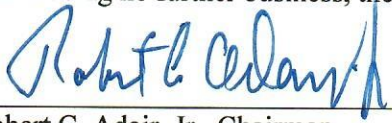
B. Business Plan/Poll Ranking of Board Priorities:

- i. Social Media, Outreach is currently in use to educate landowners.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.


Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

5-13-24
Date


Christine Kelly-Begazo, Secretary/Treasurer

5.13.24
Date