

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Final

Monday, November 4, 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

Vacant: 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 1:34 P.M

Supervisors in attendance: Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman – District 1
Dr. David L. Cox – District 2
Vacant – District 3
Christine Kelly-Begazo – District 4
George F. Hamner, Jr. – District 5

Staff in attendance: Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II

IRC Staff and

Partners in attendance: Jennifer Abbey, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS
Stephen Wright, Environmental Specialist II- FDACS-OAWP
Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director; UF/IFAS
Eric Charest, IRC Assistant Natural Resources Director

Public in attendance: Mark Dellerman, Nature Farms, Inc.
Kelly Jackson, Indian River Pioneer Farms
Mike Johannsen, Indian River Neighborhood Association
Honey Minuse, Vero Beach Resident
Laura Moss, BOCC of IRC
Judy Orcutt, Clean Water Coalition of IRC

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

A. The Minutes for the Board Meeting of October 7, 2024, were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve the October 7, 2024 Minutes was made by Christine Kelly-Begazo and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Motion: A Motion to accept the October 2024 financial report after the General Checking Account has a check VOIDED. The lost check #: 6565 dated June 20, 2024 made payable to Lawrence Insurance in the amount of \$384.00 has been outstanding due to payment lost in the USPS mail. The check is to be Voided in QuickBooks. Motion presented was made by George F. Hamner, Jr. and Seconded by Dr. David L. Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

- A. Jennifer Abbey, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
- ❖ **Farm Bill Programs:** 28 of 65 Active contracts totaling approximately \$1,400,000 over approximately 12,300 acres
 - ❖ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** 15 Active Contracts | 18 - 2025 Applications
 - ❖ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** 13 Active Contracts | 15 - 2025 Applications

- ❖ **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP – WRE) :** 2025 Application Deadline – Oct 4 and Dec. 20
 - ❖ **Conservation Applications: October – November**
 - 1. – Water Well for a livestock water system
 - ❖ **Other:** CSP annual Payments. Continued site visits to EQIP and CSP applicants for 2025.
 - ❖ **Next Month:** Continue conservation implementation field inspections as needed. Continue site visits to EQIP and CSP applicants .
- B. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/ University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:**
- ❖ Discuss the Morning Star Fields Grand Opening held Friday, October 25, 2025. Agricultural Extension office has been working with the owners. Made site visit to collect water and soil samples.
- C. Matthew Cox, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report: (*Matt out-sick and no updated report provided.*)**
- D. Stephen Wright, Environmental Specialist II, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**
- ❖ FDACS-OAWP BMP Rules 501 Training and Guidance.
- E. Eric Charest, Indian River County Assistant Natural Resources Director:**
- ❖ Eric reported for Melissa Meisenburg, Indian River County Natural Resources Senior Environmental Specialist: Organized by UF/IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant, the Eyes on Seagrass Blitz is a two-week effort between November 1-15 to collect data on the presence (or absence) of seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon. The data will allow the grant participants to better understand the current range of seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon and help conduct future monitoring and restoration work. The Eyes on Seagrass Blitz will rely on residents to report seagrass using the Seagrass Spotter App. A reporting involves taking a picture and answering a few quick questions about the area in the app. Participants may report as many or as few sightings as they would like across the entire Indian River Lagoon region, including Mosquito Lagoon and the Banana River. UF/IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant are interested in both the presence and absence of seagrass across the lagoon.
- F. Melissa Meisenburg, Indian River County Natural Resources Senior Environmental Specialist: (*Melissa not present. Report provided by Eric Charest, Indian River County Assistant Natural Resources Director*)**
- G. Linda Caggiano, Staff Assistant II:**
- ❖ **FDACS:** Contract 27690: Amended 07/10/2024 for \$250,000.00 Annually for next three (3) years plus \$15,000.00 annually for two audits. Received Cost-Share Agreement for \$8,351.48. Prior year balance cannot be forwarded to new year. A lot of additional paperwork in each agreement. New Non-Coercion for Labor or Services Affidavit. Annual Audits: Usual GASB 34 Financial Statement per 582. F.S. Possible “2nd” Audit required. Waiting on clarification from Jana Musgrove, FDACS-OAWP. Three months of emails and voicemails - no response. No other Districts are receiving any direction on the audits.
 - ❖ **FCDEA:** Brainstorm Workshop sponsored by FCDEA to be held Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. Future legislation. . Attendees: FL Cattlemen’s Association, FL Citrus Mutual, FL Farm Bureau, FL Forestry Association, FL Fruits & Vegetable, FNGLA Executive Directors & Lobbyist Team.

- ❖ **AFCD:** AFCD Director, Charlene Meeks gave her resignation with terms for the AFCD Board to review. Current AFCD President, Buck Carpenter, Madison SWCD and Vice President of AFCD, Matthew Griffin from Lake SWCD reviewing the checking accounts, account payables and receivables. FDACS-OAWP has terminated contract with AFCD effective November 8, 2024. Looking to see which SWCD can assist with the FDACS contract. *AFCD status to assist SWCDs in Florida is unknown.* Possibility of Districts getting assistance from Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD).
- ❖ **OFFICE:** Monthly Meetings Agenda, Minutes. FCDEA Agenda and Minutes. Working with Webmaster to post the Financial information to current website: 2024 Budget Amendments, 2025 Budget. Continuing to update information with Webmaster for New website. End of Fiscal Year close out with District and County. Processing of Annual Dues and Memberships. Need to gather information for 2024 Audit and hire new CPA. Completed Strategic Plan with goals, objectives, performance measures and standards. Working on and completing State of Florida annual reports. Going through OPPAGA report to update any discrepancies: Publishing of meeting dates, etc.
 - Request to Board: Agenda Change - Departmental Matters prior to Reports.
 - Request to Board: Review of Mission Statement-possible changes.

6. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Future Legislation: Impact of OPPAGA Summary (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability):

- i. Brainstorm Workshop sponsored by FCDEA rescheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. Future legislation. . Attendees: FL Cattlemen’s Association, FL Citrus Mutual, FL Farm Bureau, FL Forestry Association, FL Fruits & Vegetable, FNGLA Executive Directors & Lobbyist Team.

Supervisor needed to attend. Christine Kelly-Begazo stated she will try to attend.

B. Supervisor for District 3 Vacant:

- i. Louis Schacht name was put forward for consideration. The Chairman will ask Mr. Schacht if he would consider serving.

C. Permission to Advertise Public Meetings Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District:

- i. Option 1: \$158.88 Detailed dates; or Option 2: \$96.08 Short Version

Motion: A Motion to approve Public Notice Option 1: Detailed Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2024-2025 was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by George F. Hamner, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Mission Statement: (Discussion)

- i. Supervisors discussed, made changes, and tabled until next meeting.

Motion: A Motion to approve amending the IRSWCD Mission Statement to follow the Florida Statutes 582.02 was made by Dr. David L. Cox and Seconded by George F. Hamner, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Chapter 189 F.S. Special District Accountability Act:

(Table until December 9, 2024 Meeting, until Mission Statement Updated.)

- i. Complete Strategic Plan with long-term and short-term Goals, Priorities, and Objectives for the District.
- ii. Complete performance measures and standards used by the District.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Indian River Lagoon STEM Advisory Committee Update: (Supervisor Dr. David L. Cox)

- i. STEM Advisory Committee Update. (No update until after November 15, 2024 Meeting.)

B. Update on Morningstar Farms (Ms. Judy Orcutt, Clean Water Coalition)

- i. Friday, October 25, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M. Grand Opening held. Christine Kelly-Begazo, IRSWCD Supervisor attended with Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director; UF|IFAS Extension Agent. The owners: Bruno E. Ramos and Maritza F. Ramos have lots of ideas, innovative technology not used in the area, working with UF|IFAS , installed a Zero Waste Output System, Hydroponic herbs, plan to sell composite. Owners are open and willing to work with the County and FDACS-OAWP.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Multi-agency conflict with Local Farmer’s Notice of Intent (NOI) to follow BMPs compliance with FDACS-OAWP. Adverse impacts of raw fertilizer going into the IRL. Nature Farms, Inc. – Mark Dellerman’s Pineapple Farm in Sebastian, FL.

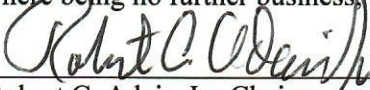
Stephen Wright, FDACS-OAWP: Post Hurricane Milton evidence of sheet flow from drainage water entering property. Producer applied fertilizer prior to storm. Runoff from property carried it into IRL.

Owner has had complaints with FDOT for past 35 years. 2014 Ditch Restoration Project. DOT staff changes. IRSWCD will email to Producer a list of DOT contacts.

Kelly Jackson has a meeting with DOT at her property Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Mr. Dellerman will attend and plans to speak with DOT about his property.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:37 PM.



 Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

12-09-2024

 Date



 Christine Kelly-Begazo, Secretary/Treasurer

12.9.25

 Date