

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the South Indian River Water Control District
Held on January 20, 2022**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on January 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Work Center, 15600 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida, and via Zoom video conferencing. Present in person were Supervisors John Meyer, John Jones, Michael Howard, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Karen Brandon, engineer; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; William Capko, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Seven landowners were present in person. Present via Zoom conferencing were Charles Haas, treasurer; William Capko and Terry Lewis, attorneys; and one landowner.

Mr. Meyer called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given.

Mr. Meyer acknowledged the attendees via Zoom and encouraged attendance that way as long as three supervisors are in attendance in person.

Mr. Meyer opened the floor to landowner comments. Mr. Matt Gitkin, landowner, questioned the mandatory requirement to have one non-resident on the Board, noting this is an antiquated requirement. He suggested the wording for this requirement be changed from “must” be a non-resident to “may” be a non-resident. Mr. Capko stated this would require an amendment to the District’s Special Act. Ms. Kennedy stated this requirement restricts recruitment for board members. Mr. Lewis noted that next year’s legislative session begins in March 2023, and he would need direction from the Board to proceed no later than April or May 2022. In addition, a representative for South Indian River Water Control District will need to sponsor the bill, and there could be no objections to the legislation from any of the senators who represent this part of the County. The bill has to be approved by the County’s local delegation. **Ms. Kennedy requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.** Mr. Jones agreed that the requirement is antiquated and stated he would like all Board members to be residents. Mr. Howard also agreed. Mr. Meyer stated this issue has nothing to do with Mr. Powell personally, who is a non-resident Board member, but the composition of the Board and the difficulty in finding candidates. Mr. Lewis explained if there is no non-resident candidate, the Board could appoint someone. Mr. Capko suggested making any change effective at the end of Mr. Powell’s current term.

Mr. Carmelo Carrozza, landowner, discussed the dead-end area at the end of 179th, noting the house had been abandoned and the area is overgrown. People are dumping trash and garbage. He asked if the end of the street could be closed off. Mr. Dillon stated there is no connection between that road and Haynie Lane. He noted the District would not be giving up an easement, but gating it off to prevent pedestrians and cars, specifically vagrants, and eliminating a hangout area. Mr. Meyer stated if there is a gate placed, it would be at the landowner’s expense and the District would require a key to the gate. He asked Mr. Carrozza to discuss a possible solution with Mr. Dillon and bring the issue back to the Board.

Mr. Carrozza also noted that at the end of 118th there used to be a stop sign, which is now missing. Mr. Dillon stated a stop sign was not required there, but he will try to get one from the County.

Ms. Kennedy made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. Arrangements have been made to add photos of Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Brandon to the conference room wall. Ms. DeNinno will be taking over scheduling the Zoom meetings and the slide presentations for the meetings. Updates have been made to Chapters 1-6 of the Policies and Procedures Manual. Ms. DeNinno and Ms. Kennedy are discussing options for the District's updated video, as well as the dedication of the new work center.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He stated there was nothing to add to written report and nothing that required Board action at this time.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. Many of the staff have contracted Covid and this has affected maintenance. More than 200 hours of time have been lost due to Covid. Mr. Dillon has been meeting with Enercon regarding plans for the new telemetry system. Work is expected to begin around February 6th. Bids were received for road resurfacing in Jupiter Farms. **Mr. Meyer made a motion to award the contract to North Florida Emulsion. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.** Work is expected to begin in mid-February. Mr. Dillon reported that Ranger Construction has completed the asphalt overlay on 159th Court North.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. There was a meeting with the County on December 15th to follow-up on discussions regarding the fill permits. Comments from Federal Emergency Management Agency were received by the County. The next review is not scheduled until April. There are no plans for any public hearings prior to that time. Mr. Meyer stated the policy is still not clear on the issue of bringing in fill on lots with existing homes. Ms. Brandon agreed to research this in more detail for clarification.

Ms. Brandon discussed the Section 7 project. Her staff has been checking the calculations including field verification of everything. A quarterly progress report has been sent to Florida Department of Environmental Protection. She noted that driveway culverts have been evaluated and not many will need to be replaced. There are other locations where culverts are a little high, but this is not impacting the system significantly at this time. Ms. Brandon will discuss this issue with Mr. Dillon next week. Mr. Jones inquired about the status of Canal E. Ms. Brandon stated the work will be completed before the rainy season. A draft of the plan is expected to be ready next week.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. He and Mr. Lewis are watching any legislation that may have an impact on the District.

Mr. Meyer called for discussion regarding the work center dedication. Plans are for an open house with dedication of the facility from 9-11:30 a.m. Refreshments will include coffee and pastries. Speakers will present a program at 10:30 a.m.. People will be free to tour the new facility during the open house. The event will be kept small and simple and will end at 11:30 a.m. The event will be advertised in the District newsletter, on the District website, and in a public notice. The Jupiter Farms Residents group was asked to include the information in their publication. The dedication will be open to everyone. Directional signs will be placed. Between 150-200 people are expected to attend. **The Board agreed that these plans are appropriate for the occasion.**

Ms. Kennedy suggested plans should begin now for next year's 100th anniversary celebration.

Ms. Kennedy discussed the drainage infographic video, which will replace the old video with a shorter, animated video. She stated the idea is to have digital-based information. The video will include South Indian River Water Control District history and shorts of the major works of the District. There will be one- to three-minute informational segments that deal with different topics. These may be accompanied by an infographic fact sheet. It will be in a digital format that more people will have access to and will be interactive so people can choose what topic they want to watch. Ms. Kennedy has contacted Blue Sky Productions regarding the video and the District engineer has graphics that can be blended with the video. The video can be produced in pieces, providing flexibility in updating it in the future. Ms. Kennedy stated she will provide a list of topics for Board comments. She would like to see the video ready by May. Mr. Haas confirmed there are funds in the budget at this time for production of the video. Mr. Jones commented that the District needs to help new resident landowners understand the mechanics of drainage in the District and what to expect with heavy rain and/or hurricanes. He introduced Ms. McElroy with South Florida Water Management District, stating she would be a great resource for finding ways to relate drainage into analogies that non-drainage people can understand. The Board was asked to give any comments or input to Ms. DeNinno.

Ms. DeNinno discussed updates to the Policies and Procedures Manual. Chapters 1-6 have been updated and distributed for review. Chapters 7-9 pertain to engineering, and Chapter 10 pertains to procurement. Mr. Meyer stated the goal of the committee is to complete the update by the end of the year. Ms. DeNinno will be working with Ms. Brandon on the engineering chapters, and Attorney Seth Behn is taking the lead on Chapter 10.

Mr. Dillon recommended renewing the park maintenance contract with Schoen Property specialists. He stated the company has been working for the District since 2017 without raising their contract price. There have been no complaints about their work. **Mr. Jones made a motion to renew the contract with Schoen Property Specialists for another year. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

There was no further business to come before the Board at this time, and the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNED.