

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Indian River Water Control District  
Held on December 8, 2022**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on December 8, 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, Tom Powell, Michael Howard and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Charles Haas, treasurer; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; William Capko, attorney; Seth Behn, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Four landowners were present in person. Karen Brandon, engineer, and two landowners were present via Zoom conferencing.

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

The election results from the Supervisor of Elections Office were presented. John Jones and Michael Howard were declared the winners with 929 and 1088 votes, respectively. Mr. Powell made a motion to ratify the election results. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The two supervisors were officially sworn in by attorney Capko. Mr. Meyer opened the floor to landowner comments. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Meyer called for the election of officers. He nominated Michael Howard for president. Mr. Powell seconded the nomination and the Board agreed unanimously. Mr. Howard was handed the gavel and he took over the meeting as president. Ms. Kennedy nominated Tom Powell for vice-president. Mr. Jones seconded the nomination and the Board agreed unanimously. Mr. Jones nominated Jane Woodard for secretary. Mr. Meyer seconded the nomination and the Board agreed unanimously. Mr. Jones then made a motion to maintain the same committee appointments as previously. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Ms. Kennedy requested that she be authorized to attend the meetings of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council as alternative representative if Mr. Dillon is unable to attend. **Mr. Meyer made a motion appointing Ms. Kennedy as alternative representative for the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

Ms. Kennedy recognized Mr. Dillon and staff for receiving a first-place award for their float in the annual Jupiter Farms Christmas parade held on December 4th.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. The drainage information portion of the District's video has had 312 views to date. The updates to the Policies & Procedures Manual have been incorporated into the draft and forwarded to the committee for review.

Family Day is scheduled for March 18th. Ms. DeNinno reminded everyone this will be the District's 100-year anniversary, and she requested suggestions for a logo and advertising. The District will continue its tradition of a BBQ and the same band as in the past. Ms. Kennedy suggested contacting Jupiter Bounce rental to provide games for the children. She also suggested a photo booth. Ms. DeNinno

suggested having a special event cake for the supervisors to cut. She noted there will probably be an increase in prices this year but additional funds have been budgeted for the event.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. Regarding the assessments, he clarified he received the distributions but not the backup data to put into the system. Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. He requested adding Ms. Kennedy as the alternate representative for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative. **Mr. Jones made a motion appointing Ms. Kennedy as alternate representative for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dillon reported that Ranger Construction has submitted a bid of \$110,000 for the asphalt overlay on Haynie Lane. They will do more details on the edges of the road, and the overlay. He noted this road was part of the pilot project and previously had one overlay. **Mr. Meyers made a motion to approve Ranger Construction for the overlay project on Haynie Lane. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.** Mr. Dillon stated the work will probably be done between Christmas and New Year's.

Mr. Dillon also reported receipt of the reimbursement for Section 7 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Johnson-Davis will be starting work tomorrow and is expected to complete the work by the end of February.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. She discussed widening the weir at Canal D. The topography has been reviewed and discussed with Mr. Dillon. During heavy rainfall, water can back up in the area to the west, causing standing water during that time. To do a thorough analysis, we would have to collect a more detailed topography and perform a drainage study to determine if there is any benefit to widening the weir. She requested Board direction regarding proceeding with more detailed studies. Mr. Meyer asked what would be involved to obtain a permit to widen the weir. Ms. Brandon stated it would require proof of improving flood protection without impacting water quality. Mr. Meyer questioned if an overall remodeling would give us answers needed for a modification with South Florida Water Management District. He suggested this could be put off until the next budget year, allowing us time to come up with a solution for going forward. Ms. Kennedy asked about the severity of impact being experienced. Mr. Dillon stated at times the water goes over the roads after a heavy rainfall, but within 12-18 hours, the water recedes. The roads did not go underwater with Hurricane Ian, but the District experienced a dry summer prior to the hurricane. Mr. Meyer stated if this is looked at next year when preparing the budget, the Board may have better intuition as how to proceed. There was discussion about the cost of studying the canal basin vs. all of Palm Beach Country Estates. Mr. Howard asked if there would be a duplication of effort if studies are done now. Ms. Brandon noted the Canal D model could be incorporated with the rest of Palm Beach Country Estates so there would be no duplication of efforts. She noted she already has the Lidar for Palm Beach Country Estates.

Ms. Brandon reported the contract for the Section 7 project has been awarded to Johnson-Davis, Inc. The preconstruction meeting was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Work will begin tomorrow and the completion date may be the first week of March.

Regarding the Canal C project, Ms. Brandon has been notified that a new permit reviewer has been assigned to our project. The review will resume after the holidays with a formal site inspection. Forms

required for a grant agreement have been sent to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and they are now preparing the agreement.

The road paving petitions are being coordinated with Mr. Capko and Mr. Haas. The referendum documents are being finalized. Mr. Capko noted one petition has two parcels with one landowner paying for both. There is a question if the landowner wants this handled as an assessment or prefers to pay up front.

Ms. Brandon discussed her recommendations regarding water quality sampling as previously presented to the Board. She provided the Board with a notebook of graphs, trend graphs and parameters. She had suggested reducing the metal monitoring locations to one or two because over 10 years there has not been any increase in trends. Ms. Kennedy noted an increase in copper for the ground water site. Ms. Brandon will try to find out what that might be from as it is not showing in any surface water samples. She noted this sample is taken from the tap water at the District office. After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep all metals in the samplings at one site, and check the District's system. Ms. Brandon recommended SW1-2 as the site for this sampling. It was also noted there is an increase in phosphorus, particularly in the Park of Commerce. Ms. Brandon will do additional research to determine where this is coming from. Ms. Kennedy asked that a copy of the notebook prepared by Ms. Brandon be kept at the District Office so the data is available to any interested landowner. She also requested that information be included stating what the criteria are, the state water quality standards, what it means to the District, and why the District is testing for phosphorus and nitrates. Mr. Meyer suggested two stations for sucralose testing, one at the Park of Commerce and one at SW-5. He also suggested a site in Palm Beach Country Estates as a third location. Ms. Brandon will put together cost estimates. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion for the District to conduct testing for sucralose at SW-D and SW-5, reduce metal testing to one surface and ground water site, and conduct E. coli testing everywhere. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Behn presented the attorney's report. The procurement policy has been worked on with the goal to provide a policy that meets the standards of best practices. The draft has been forwarded to the committee for review. It addresses the levels of purchasing up to \$25,000, a more competitive level from \$25,000 to \$65,000 that requires quotes, and anything over that which goes out for bids. It also clarifies piggybacking. Mr. Powell asked how this policy compares to what is already being followed. Mr. Behn stated the former policy was "hodgepodge" and has now been clarified. Mr. Haas requested that the levels set should be tied to a cost of living or the policy will quickly be outdated. Ms. DeNinno stated that all changes have been forwarded to the committee for review, after which it will go to the Board for final review. Mr. Behn will present this as a stand-alone policy at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Behn reported that South Florida Water Management District has a movement to adopt a rule requiring landowners and special districts to take action to address maintenance of vegetation. There is no proposed rule yet, but this will be monitored. Workshops are planned for the first months of 2023.

Attorney Terry Lewis announced that after working for the District for over 25 years, he will be retiring December 31st. He expressed appreciation of the loyalty given him and his firm by South Indian River Water Control District. The Board members stated Mr. Lewis has always done a good job and it has been

a pleasure to work with him. His guidance has been invaluable and his work in Tallahassee will be missed.

There was no further business to come before the Board at this time. Mr. Powell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED.