

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Indian River Water Control District  
Held on March 16, 2023**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on March 16, 2023, 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 Tom Powell, John Meyer, John Jones, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Charles Haas, treasurer; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Karen Brandon, engineer; Seth Behn, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Two landowners were present. One landowner was present via Zoom conferencing.

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

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. She reported that the Policies and Procedures Manual is still being reviewed by engineering.

Ms. DeNinno discussed plans for Family Day. Giveaways will include temporary tattoos for the kids, lip balm, and various items donated by AECOM. Notices have gone out as previously discussed and the banner has been put up. To date, 369 RSVP's have been received, but it was noted that in the past many people do not RSVP. Attendance in 2019 was approximately 675. Food service will be available for 1,100 attendees. There will be photos taken of the Board members with an anniversary cake, including several previous Board members. It was noted that Mr. Powell is the longest serving Board member. County Commissioner Maria Marino is expected to attend, and she is trying to obtain a Certificate of Appreciation for South Indian River Water Control District's 100 years.

Ms. DeNinno discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act accessible website. The District can obtain the template that is offered by Special District Services. She noted that WordPress has 64% of the market share of websites.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. The auditor is working on the annual audit. He asked the Board to submit any suggestions they have for next year's budget.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations report. He met with the contactors regarding Canal 6 in order to identify problem areas. There are massive trees, especially Australian pines, on the canal right-of-way that need to be removed. Johnson-Davis is scheduled to start work installing four culverts on Monday. Sod work in Section 7 is being completed.

Mr. Dillon reported on an incident that recently occurred in the District. Apparently the driver of a vehicle thought they could cross a canal and turned into a new riser. There were 20 bags damaged, but no damage to the riser. The bags have been replaced and it was confirmed there was nothing wrong with the riser's installation. There was Board discussion about adding warning signs, but Mr. Dillon noted these are often removed or shot down. A gate was also discussed, but this too can be taken down and is an

expense to the District. It was agreed the District needs to be more aggressive enforcing no vehicles on canals.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. A final request for reimbursement is being prepared for submission to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the remainder of the grant for Section 7.

A site inspection for the Canal C project has been scheduled with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's inspector for April 4th. No grant agreement form has been received yet from them.

Ms. Brandon reported that the water quality monitoring write-up has been drafted and is being finalized.

Mr. Behn presented the attorney's report. The road paving petition for 153<sup>rd</sup> was signed by all four affected landowners. There is no financing option provided by the District. The petitioners have 90 days to pay, at which time the project will move forward.

Mr. Behn noted that all elected officials are required to have four hours of ethics training. There is sometimes a bill that requires special districts to participate. He will advise the Board if this will be required of them.

Mr. Powell called for any old business to be discussed. Mr. Meyer asked for recommendations regarding the review of paving petition fees. Mr. Haas noted that \$300 is charged for less than 1/2 mile, and \$600 for more than 1/2 mile. Last year \$2000 was spent on one petition. The Board members discussed this issue and noted that the petition fee does not cover the District's expenses for unsuccessful petitions and referendums. In the past, unspent funds from other road paving assessments have been used to cover funding shortfalls. Last year \$500 was charged back to the road maintenance fund. This did not affect assessments. It was agreed that an increase in the petition fee could be considered. It was noted that very few petitions are being received. Mr. Meyer stated he was in favor of increasing the fee. Mr. Powell stated this is a non-issue because not many road petitions are expected in the future. **After Board discussion, Ms. Kennedy made a motion to increase the petition fees to \$400 for projects less than 1/2 mile, and \$800 for projects more than 1/2 mile. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. It carried 3:1 with Mr. Powell opposed.**

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

ADJOURNED.