

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the South Indian River Water Control District
Held on April 20, 2023**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on April 20, 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 Michael Howard, Tom Powell, John Meyer, John Jones, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Charles Haas, treasurer; Dustin Fazio for Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Karen Brandon, engineer; William Capko, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Four landowners were present in person. Two landowners were present via Zoom conferencing.

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

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

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. There were 776 sign-ins at Family Day; about half of them were youngsters. The District's video has received 388 views and 12 likes to date. Chapters 7 and 8 of the Policies and Procedures Manual were received from the engineer and forwarded to the committee for further review.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He recommended an amendment to the District's investment policy that will allow for the purchase of specialized mutual funds. He explained that the District currently has limited investment choices. This policy has served the District well, but with rising interest rates, other investment options are paying more. The District is earning about 2-2.5% now in safe and ultraconservative investments, but other options are paying 4%. After asking several bankers to come up with an option that has a better return, it was suggested that the District purchase a governmental portfolio account, which is similar to a mutual fund. Mr. Haas further explained this is a top-rated government municipal fund where the District would establish a target balance and everything else would go into the mutual fund. However, the District is currently not authorized to do that. In order for this to be an option for investing, Mr. Haas requested that the Board consider adding the following paragraph to its investment policy: "F. Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency." Mr. Jones had concerns, noting the time the market seized up in 2008 and 2009. He stated the Board needs to be ultra-safe with the landowners' money. Mr. Haas stated the full amount of District resources would not be invested, and keeping the landowners' money safe is always a priority. Mr. Meyer was in favor of putting the District resources to work as long as it is safe. Mr. Haas stated this is an option where the investment can start out slowly so the Board can see how it works out. He suggested starting out with a \$500,000 investment, which is about half of what is available, and about what is currently in a money market account and CDs. The downside is that it is not covered by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as it is an investment, similar to U.S. treasury bills. He also explained that the Morgan Stanley Institutional Liquidity Fund is easy to implement and is intended to be as liquid as a money market account, available on a daily basis. Mr. Howard questioned who would manage the investments. Mr. Haas stated, as treasurer, he would manage the account, which would require more of his time. After further discussion,

Ms. Kennedy made a motion to amend the District's investment policy as suggested by Mr. Haas. She clarified this is not an intent to go forward with implementing a new policy at this time. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried 4:1 with Mr. Jones opposed.

Mr. Dustin Fazio presented the manager of operations report. He presented photos of the Section 7 outfalls. There was previously no access. The outfalls were cleared and access roads constructed. The remaining work to be done in Section 7 includes swale cleaning and sod placement for stabilization.

Mr. Fazio also reported that the storage tanks were inspected and are in compliance. The District received awards of excellence in employee and vehicle safety from the Palm Beach County Safety Council. Hurricane preparedness has been reviewed and roles were assigned to field personnel.

Ms. Kennedy stated she attended a recent Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting and was asked by legislator Deb Drum if there are photos and project bullet points available to include in a packet when lobbying for funds. The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative application deadline will be in August this year.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. Regarding Section 7, she stated a change order was issued and Johnson-Davis has completed installation of the culverts. She is waiting for the final application for payment. The final request for reimbursement of \$288,850 has been submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Brandon reported on the Canal C project. There was a site inspection by Florida Department of Environmental Protection on April 4 but no determination has been made as to a No Permit Required, an exemption, or a General Permit.

Ms. Brandon is still working on water quality monitoring. She is trying to obtain new data from the sampling lab, but it is no longer testing for Sucralose. She obtained new pricing of \$550/sample from a non-certified in-state lab with a 6-8 week turnaround. The Board discussed the need to have reliable certified data in case Loxahatchee River District has requirements as to septic tanks. There was concern about having E.coli data. The Board agreed to go forward with this new lab. It was noted that although it is not certified to analyze Sucralose, it is certified for other testing. Ms. Brandon will follow up with the lab to be sure they proceed with testing.

Regarding the 20th Plan of Improvements, Ms. Brandon is drafting the engineer's report and will present it at the May Board meeting. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the 20th Plan of Improvements and direct the staff to develop said water control plan. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Brandon discussed the engineering budget for Palm Beach Country Estates stormwater modeling which is estimated to be \$125,000. The Canal D modeling study's estimated fee of \$36,300 is included in that amount. The time frame is less than a year. Ms. Kennedy suggested the Board should consider what will be needed in next year's budget. Mr. Haas stated he will be presenting this to the Board as an option. The Board discussed the advantages of having modeling performed for Palm Beach Country Estates and Ms. Brandon thought it was advisable. Mr. Jones was concerned with the effect on landowners' assessments, but believed it would be a good idea, also noting that the biggest problem is the low area

along Canal D west of 82nd. Mr. Haas will put together a base budget and this will be a separate issue that shows its impact on assessments. He noted there may be some carryover funds available for this project. Ms. Kennedy suggested splitting up the project by addressing Canal D first. Mr. Haas stated he would prefer that the project be done without splitting it up, although the cost could be spread out over a period of time. **Ms. Brandon noted it would be helpful to obtain a hard quote for surveying, and the Board instructed her to do so.** Mr. Haas noted he needs to present a proposed budget to the Board in June.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. He discussed the possible requirement of four hours of ethics training for special district board members. He will know by next month if this will be required. Mr. Capko also noted there is pending legislation regarding dumping or littering within a district and addresses the posting of notices and reporting illegal activity to the Sheriff.

The Board discussed combining the June and July Board meetings. After a brief discussion, **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to combine the two meetings to be held on June 29. Mr. Jones second the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Kennedy reported that at the last Jupiter Farms Residents meeting there was a presentation by Jupiter Farms Environmental Academy. They discussed water quality monitoring direct from water faucets, including testing for potable water. The Jupiter Farms residents were asked to help distribute and collect bottles. Ms. Kennedy asked if the District office could be a drop off center. This would probably be for a few dozen bottles. The Board agreed to help the school by providing this service. Ms. Kennedy will have the school's representative (Conner) get in touch with Ms. Rigsby to discuss the details.

Ms. Greta Foriere, a landowner on 153rd North, stated her road was on a petition for paving; she requested an update. Ms. Brandon stated she will contact her with the final documents, noting it will probably be four months before paving begins. She will contact the landowners when the bid package is ready. Sunshine Paving provided the original quote that was given to the landowners. Ms. Brandon noted the paving has to meet County standards. It was also discussed that funds had to be received from the landowners by March 25th and this was accomplished. However, their checks have not been cashed yet. Ms. Rigsby assured the landowners that the checks will be deposited tomorrow.

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

ADJOURNED.