

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Indian River Water Control District  
Held on March 17, 2022**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on April 21, 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, Tom Powell, John Jones, Michael Howard, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Karen Brandon, engineer; Charles Haas, treasurer; 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 Terry Lewis, attorney; and one landowner.

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

Mr. Lewis was asked to discuss recent legislation passed that is designed to eliminate certain special districts, specifically the Reedy Creek Improvement District which is the governing body that oversees the Disney theme park. He stated SIRWCD's Special Act was codified years ago so the District will not be affected by this legislation. Other special districts that did not have a codified Special Act could be dissolved unless they are codified by June 1st. It was Mr. Lewis' opinion that the Disney attorneys are likely to negotiate a solution to this issue. Mr. Capko stated there were no other legal issues to report on at this time.

Mr. Meyer commented on the dedication of the District's new work center and thanked everyone for their efforts. He noted that all the Board members had attended the dedication.

Mr. Meyer opened the floor to landowner comments. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Jones acknowledged the presence of Ms. Amy Kight from the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. She has provided a draft of the revised Policies & Procedures and updated Procurement Policy to Mr. Hass for the annual audit. A copy of revised Chapters 1-6 has been sent to the Board and staff for review. Chapters 7-10 are still being revised. The goal is to have all revisions completed by the end of the year.

Ms. DeNinno discussed the updating of the District's video. A proposal has been received pursuant to discussions at the last meeting. Ms. Kennedy noted the printed version of the first segment, which will feature drainage, will be sent out with the next newsletter, and possibly be included in The Jupiter Farmer. Ms. DeNinno played a sample video showing the type of animation that is planned. A Zoom meeting of the committee is planned for May.

Ms. DeNinno discussed plans for Family Day 2023 and requested input as to any new ideas. Ms. Kennedy suggested Mr. Dillon and Ms. Rigsby think about what the site can handle. Mr. Dillon stated the plans are for the food to be inside with seating in the Work Center so there would be no need for

tents. The only question is where to put the band if there will be one. Ms. DeNinno stated the band will be available. She noted it is too early to make definitive plans for food.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He prepared an alternative method of presenting data for capital projects. He will replace the column showing the year-to-date budget with the prior period's expenditures. The variance column will then reflect the difference between the project budget and the accumulated cost. The next report will use this new format.

Mr. Haas requested Board approval for budget amendments to re-appropriate fund balances for capital projects and equipment renewal and replacement funds. He noted this will not affect assessments and is for "housekeeping" purposes. **After a brief discussion, Mr. Powell made a motion to authorize the budget amendments recommended by Mr. Haas. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations report. He discussed the meeting with a landowner in Section 33 and a contractor regarding the removal of Australian Pines. The estimate was \$38,000-50,000, which the landowner decided was too much for cost-sharing with the District. It was decided to not proceed with the removal unless the landowner found a less expensive quote, at which time he will contact the District Office. Mr. Dillon noted that calls from landowners regarding maintenance of growth throughout the District have been increasing. Mr. Meyer suggested an exotic removal program so these problems can be addressed and noted funds should be earmarked for this in the 2022-23 budget. Problem areas should be identified and removal of exotics scheduled. Mr. Haas asked if any grant money would be available. Mr. Powell noted the County has a program, but he was not sure if it is funded. Mr. Powell also questioned if this is the District's job and if the District has authority under its Plan of Reclamation. Mr. Meyer was concerned with liability from fallen branches. He considered it to be part of maintaining the canal easements.

**Mr. Dillon requested Board approval for the purchase of a Ford Escape vehicle. Ms. Kennedy made a motion to approve this purchase. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Dillon also requested Board approval for the purchase of a batwing mower from John Deere. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve this purchase. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dillon noted that the County has hired a third party to handle fence permits. He was concerned with the canal and drainage easements between properties. Apparently it is up to the landowners to put up fences in the proper place. The County is reviewing permits and approving them within a day or two, which does not seem sufficient for an actual inspection. Mr. Dillon wanted the Board to be aware of this procedure.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. She received a draft of the County's revised policy regarding fill permits which was forwarded to the Board for review. Mr. Howard noted there are detailed requirements for dry retention but was concerned about existing ponds. Ms. Kennedy noted there are requirements that may remove native vegetation. Mr. Meyer suggested that the permit application be provided to South Indian River Water Control District for review and input prior to its approval. Ms. Brandon asked how involved the District intends to be in this process and if the intent is to review each individual permit. It was Mr. Meyer's opinion that there should be a mechanism whereby the District has

input and is able to sign off after an inspection. He wants the District to be involved but not to the point where it is a permitting agency. It was Mr. Howard's opinion that if the County defines the storage rate and run-off rate, that is all the information the District needs. Ms. Kennedy stated there should be a requirement for at least a sign off from South Indian River Water Control District. **There was further discussion about this procedure and Ms. Brandon requested Board comments be submitted to her in writing within the next week.**

Canal E plan revisions have been made. Ms. Brandon is waiting for vegetation to be cleared before finalizing the design, and Mr. Dillon will take care of that.

Regarding the G-92 agreement, Ms. Brandon reported that Jennifer Reynolds, Director of Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects for South Florida Water Management District, is not yet authorized to start drafting agreements. Mr. Meyer asked if modeling can be done at this time; Ms. Brandon will inquire. Mr. Powell was concerned about the impact on flood protection for the community. Ms. Brandon noted there are average annual flow numbers, but not for a storm event. Ms. Kennedy noted the current agreement contains those numbers, but the agreement is outdated. Mr. Howard noted the intention is to have higher flow in the river year-round, specifically a foot or more higher at all times. Mr. Powell stated this will have an impact on the community's flood protection. Ms. Brandon stated she will follow-up with South Florida Water Management District.

Ms. Brandon reported the petition for road paving has been withdrawn due to a limited timeline and financial reasons.

Ms. Brandon reported on the permit application for Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. A maintenance agreement has been agreed upon for the east end of the canal. The northeast corner of the site had a drainage concern, but this seems to have been worked out. Ms. Brandon requested Board approval for her staff to work out final details and to approve the permit under the conditions discussed. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to approve moving forward, subject to the execution of the maintenance agreement and finalization of swale revisions. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Kennedy requested a discussion of South Indian River Water Control District's water quality and the District's responsibility to address it. She suggested a public monitoring system to identify "hot spots", noting that at certain times during the year the District gets red-flagged for E. coli. Mr. Powell stated a program was established years ago. Mr. Dillon confirmed that the program is still monitoring water quality monthly. Mr. Meyer noted that South Indian River Water Control District has had to address this issue because it has been required by law from the Department of Environmental Protection. He noted the District's monitoring could be expanded but it would be more expensive. **Ms. Kennedy requested a presentation from the staff regarding the status of the current water quality program, including where the testing is being conducted, trends, and comparisons with the parameters of Loxahatchee River District.**

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.