

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the South Indian River Water Control District
Held on August 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on August 18, 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. Present in person were Supervisors John Meyer, Michael Howard, John Jones, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Charles Haas, treasurer; Karen Brandon, engineer; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Five landowners were present in person. Present via Zoom conferencing were Seth Behn, attorney; and one landowner.

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

Mr. Meyer opened the public hearing on the budget. Mr. Haas presented a handout showing the breakdown of assessments. He then summarized the budget information. He explained the Internal Service Funds are increased by \$150,000. That includes an increase of \$100,000 in Jupiter Farms water control assessments, a decrease of \$159,500 in the capital projects and an increase of \$145,000 in road maintenance assessments. In Palm Beach Country Estates, road maintenance assessments will increase by \$103,000 and the water distribution bond assessments will decrease by \$65,000. Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park water control assessments are unchanged. Mr. Haas then presented information based on the number and size of parcels in the District, noting that most of the parcels will have less than a 5% increase in assessments. Approximately 1,500 parcels out of 7,500 will have a decrease. Only seven parcels will have a significant increase; five are in Palm Beach Country Estates and have a prepaid water distribution assessment, and two are in Jupiter Farms charged with road maintenance assessment. The average increase in PBCE is \$25 for all parcels, and \$17 in Jupiter Farms for all parcels. Mr. Haas then asked for landowner questions about the budget. There were no questions or comments. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the public hearing on the budget. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Meyers then opened the monthly Board meeting.

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

Mr. Meyers opened the floor to landowner comments. Mr. Frank Sardinha, a Jupiter Farms landowner who owns a tree farm, stated that the County is requiring a flood plan because his property has been designated a flood hazard area. He inquired why South Indian River Water Control District does not have a master stormwater management system. Mr. Meyer noted that certain areas, like Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates, are not considered to be on the same level as communities that have been issued a stormwater permit by South Florida Water Management District. Drainage is good but there are concerns in the event of large storms. The County now wants to address these areas differently and they are being more stringent when looking at permits. Ms. Kennedy noted that Mr. Sardinha is in a special flood concern area, and that South Indian River Water Control District has a permit for drainage in the

entire area. She suggested he speak with the District engineer regarding the special flood plain for his area. Mr. Behn stated these regulations are not within our purview. While the District engineer can describe the nature of the system, we do not control these regulations. After more discussion, it was agreed Mr. Sardinha will discuss the matter further with Ms. Brandon.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He recommended adoption of the 2022-2023 budget as presented and the uniform method of collection of non-ad valorem assessments. He also requested acknowledgement that transfers in the budget for the current year are approved. **Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the 2022-2023 budget, approve the uniform method of collection of non-ad valorem assessments, and approve the transfers of budget amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard and 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.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. She played the District's new informational video. Minor wording changes were noted. Ms. Kennedy was not ready yet to present the written material. The final version of the video will be ready for viewing at the annual landowner's meeting.

Ms. DeNinno reported that the engineer is working on Chapter 9 of the Policies & Procedures Manual, and the attorney is working on Chapter 10. The goal is for completion by the end of the year. Mr. Behn noted he is working on the procurement policy and updating the statutory requirements. It will then be easier to read and the structure will be more clear. He will have a draft ready for the Board to review next month.

Ms. DeNinno also reported she is working with staff to update the District's mailing list and the welcome letter to new residents.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations report. **He discussed a change in the holiday schedule, suggesting that the floating holiday be removed and Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth, and Columbus Day be made permanent holidays. After a brief discussion, Ms. Kennedy made a motion approving this suggestion. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dillon reported debris has been removed from Canal E. Rock revetment and sod have been scheduled. Mr. Dillon noted that because rainfall has been less than usual, he has been able to do projects that are normally scheduled for the winter months.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. The clearing of vegetation has been completed in Section 7. Only one bid was received for installation of the riser and culvert, which was quite high. Staff has been reaching out to other contractors for bids. Mr. Dillon may remove the existing culvert in order to bring down the cost.

Canal E will be complete this week. It currently has barriers to deter traffic.

A letter was sent to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding Canal C's qualification as an exemption. The person Ms. Brandon has been communicating with is no longer there; someone else will be contacted.

Ms. Brandon is working on referendums for the road paving petitions.

Ms. Brandon discussed permit fees and presented a suggested fee schedule. Fees for minor activity would be \$250; all others \$500. A \$2,000 deposit would be required for engineering and legal review. A significant project would require an additional \$2,000. An inspection fee of \$350 minimum would be required from the applicant. A permit extension fee would be \$250 with an additional \$500 fee for adjustments. Mr. Meyer was concerned that these fees were high for a single resident landowner. Ms. Brandon noted that if the entire \$2,000 deposit was not used for engineering and/or legal, it would apply to inspection fees. Mr. Meyer was also concerned with landowners being discouraged from getting a permit because of these costs. Mr. Howard stated if landowners are connecting to the drainage system or drawing water from a canal for irrigation, the District needs to know. The purpose of the fees is to reimburse the District engineer for landowner projects. Mr. Howard also stated that if an irrigation pipe is placed improperly, that will cost the District. He thought these fees were reasonable. Mr. Jones thought these fees would come close to covering actual costs. After further discussion, **the Board agreed that the fee schedule reflected the actual costs incurred for the review and permitting of connections and use of the works of the District.** The schedule does not conflict with the water control plan of the District. **Ms. Brandon presented a Resolution to collect fees for the amended Permit Fee Schedule, effective October 1, 2022. Mr. Meyer made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Brandon discussed follow-up information regarding water quality. Lab fees for sucralose are \$450/sample for eight locations. Metal samplings are a total of \$448 for all eight locations. Ms. Brandon presented graphs of the annual geometric mean for arsenic, cadmium, calcium, copper, lead, magnesium, and zinc. All were below standards. She suggested reducing the metal samplings to only one of the four current locations since there is nothing significant showing up. **The Board discussed locations for samplings and a time schedule. They requested that Ms. Brandon present various options at the next meeting.**

Mr. Behn presented the attorney's report and noted they are working on the road right-of-way issue in Rocky Pines.

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

ADJOURNED.