

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the South Indian River Water Control District
Held on May 19, 2022**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on May 19, 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, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Karen Brandon, engineer; 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 Michael Howard, Supervisor; and one landowner.

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

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

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. She asked for comments regarding the draft of the fact sheet for the District's video. Ms. Kennedy stated she was disappointed in the time it has taken to prepare a first draft, noting the process began in December. She commented that the printed fact sheet needs to be in language easy to understand, not in engineering terms. A production company was hired last month, and they are on schedule to release the video portion this summer. The first portion will cover drainage, and then how it is connected to the regional system. Engineering is putting together simplistic graphics, highlighting the restoration programs. Mr. Meyer noted the draft looks like a typical South Florida Water Management District fact sheet, with storm drains, etc., and it is not pertinent to South Indian River Water Control District. He requested that it present an understanding of not only drainage swales, but how landowners' yards are also part of the drainage system. He requested emphasis on how South Indian River Water Control District is different from other communities. Mr. Howard noted it was difficult to read through all the printed information and suggested including graphics on the front page to break up the text. Mr. Jones inquired about what can be done to move forward on this project. Ms. Kennedy stated she will set aside time to work on the draft.

Ms. DeNinno reported that no additional comments have been received regarding the Policies & Procedures Manual.

The treasurer's written report was reviewed in Mr. Haas' absence. There were no questions.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations report. He has looked at canals that have excessive vegetation. He inspected about 2.5 miles of Canal 5 along Randolph Siding and talked to contractors regarding a bid for complete clearance on the north side of the Canal (Option 1). This would include 229 trees: 139 pines, 64 palms, 3 oaks, 17 acacias, peppers and miscellaneous. The bid quoted was \$49,800 for complete clearance on the north side only. The south side of the Canal has exotics, but the north side has to be cleared in order to get equipment in to reach the south side. Although the District has legal rights, opposition is expected from the landowners. Option 2 would include removing the entire tree and

only removing the stumps if this is necessary in order to widen the Canal. This option will remove 30-40% fewer trees than Option 1. He noted he would then look at clearing 116 non-native trees. On the south side there are numerous Australian pines that are 80-100 feet tall. Mr. Dillon requested feedback from the Board. Mr. Meyer stated the ultimate goal is to get rid of exotics. Ms. Kennedy stated the overall goal is to improve maintenance. Mr. Powell asked how access can be improved if the tree stumps are not removed. Mr. Dillon stated the stumps would be ground down. Ms. Brandon inquired about areas that could be widened but would still be impacted by native vegetation. Mr. Dillon stated this can be better assessed after removing the non-natives. The estimate for Option 2 is \$30,000-35,000. Mr. Dillon will discuss this with Mr. Haas to see if there is money in the budget for this year. Mr. Powell stated he was comfortable with Mr. Dillon's decision, and since this is considered maintenance, no motion is required. Mr. Meyer stated he wants the landowners to be advised regarding the reasoning for the Board's decision. **The Board unanimously agreed to go forward with Option 2. If it is within the budget, the work will go forward now. This work will definitely be included in this year's budget.**

Mr. Dillon reported that a contractor has been hired to remove Australian pines along Canal E in Palm Beach Country Estates.

The Board discussed the summer meeting schedule. It was decided to skip the June meeting. The next scheduled Board meeting will be July 21st.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. Regarding fill permits, the parties are looking at language that is more standardized.

Final plans for Section 7 have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection manager. Mr. Dillon will request prices from contractors for risers, culverts, and land clearing. The District has received a request for certain documents and records to be produced related to invoice documentation, communications with the Department of Environmental Protection, and the project status. This information is due by June 3rd.

Ms. Brandon reported on communications with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding Canal C. Unless there is an impact to wetlands or waters of the U.S., a 404 permit will not be required. Ms. Brandon will follow-up to obtain confirmation of this in writing.

Ms. Brandon reported road paving petitions have been received for three different sections. She requested Board direction on proceeding at this time with such small sections of paving. Mr. Howard noted the paving would cover 1/4 mile but in three different sections of road with no connection. Mr. Powell stated it is not up to the Board to make a decision on whether a project is cost efficient. The Board should not prevent the process from going forward. Mr. Meyer stated there is nothing in the District's policies that addresses the length of roadway for a project. During discussion, the Board noted that before there is a referendum, there will be cost estimates and it is then up to the affected landowners to decide. It was also noted that 100% of the affected landowners signed the petition. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to move forward with the paving process. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Brandon reported staff is working on the 20-year stormwater analysis. They will coordinate with Mr. Dillon and Mr. Haas regarding financials and demographics.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. As previously discussed, a maintenance agreement has been provided to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and they are expected to sign.

Mr. Capko noted that a revised invoice has been received from the Supervisor of Elections Office.

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.