

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Indian River Water Control District  
Held on June 29, 2023**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on June 29, 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 Jones and Susan Kennedy. Also present were Charles Haas, treasurer; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Karen Brandon, engineer; William Capko, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Three landowners were present in person. One landowner was 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. Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard opened the floor to landowner discussion. Mr. Clifford Budelman (Palm Beach Country Estates) inquired about the swale study. He noted that the elevations south of 155th are not the same from one culvert to the next and questioned the need for an engineering study to tell us this. He felt the \$152,000 budgeted for the study should be spent cleaning out the culverts instead. There were no other landowner comments.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. Revisions to Chapters 7 and 8 of the Policies & Procedures Manual, and the Appendix, were reviewed by the committee. Legal is reviewing comments on wastewater and the elections. Engineering is working on the general driveway culvert permit specifications. Additions to the definitions section are being considered.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He previously sent out the auditor's financial statement to the Board and they all acknowledged receipt of same.

Mr. Haas presented the proposed 2023-24 budget, commenting that all funds are in good shape. Internal Service Funds show an increase of \$75,000 primarily for additional personnel. A new roof for the work center is included. There is a change in transfers to the Equipment and Road Renewal Funds: \$175,000 to the Equipment Fund and a decrease in the Road Renewal Fund for maintenance. Mr. Haas confirmed this is an adequate amount for road maintenance. The Special Revenue Funds for Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park show no change in assessments. The Debt Service Funds showed no change except for Palm Beach Country Estates for the water distribution system hookups. He noted this is the final year for that assessment. In summary, Mr. Haas stated the total budgeted assessments of \$4,665,300 are adequate for the coming year. He also presented a brief summary of voluntary assessments, i.e., landowner-initiated debt.

Mr. Jones was concerned about how inflation could affect the budget. He commended Mr. Dillon for "running a tight ship." Mr. Haas stated he will turn this proposed budget in to the County and it will go on the TRIM bill. The next step is normally a budget workshop. In the past, only one landowner attended and Mr. Haas suggested a workshop is not necessary. In addition, it is costly to hold a workshop. Any questions can be directed through the District office. **Ms. Kennedy made a motion to forego a budget**

**workshop this year. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.** Mr. Haas noted this has been an informal adoption of the proposed budget for the TRIM bill.

Mr. Dillon presented the Manager of Operations report. The District has received 14.64" of rainfall this reporting period, resulting in some standing water in the swales, which is part of the process. He reported that the C-14 tree removal is not going as fast as expected due to weather conditions. There have also been some problems with access, requiring a temporary road. He presented pictures of the Australian pines that were removed. Mr. Dillon then reported on replacing one of the boom mowers. He is also looking for a dump truck which has been difficult to find.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. The final Section 7 as-built information has been received from Johnson-Davis. Some structures are higher than specified. The impact of the elevation differences is being reviewed.

Confirmation has been received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that the Canal C project does not require a permit under the State 404 Program. Ms. Brandon is going to proceed with preparation of the contract documents and advertise for bids.

Ms. Brandon reported on water quality monitoring. She presented a display of the first monthly sample values for E coli and fecal coliform. She noted three location are slightly high and she will continue with the samples. Ms. Brandon did not have the sucralose results yet. Ms. Kennedy noted it is important to know what the rainfall is at the time of the samples.

Ms. Brandon reported on the 20th Plan of Improvements. She is in the process of obtaining a purchase order for the road survey which will be used as the base for construction plans. Other plans are being prepared in the meantime.

Regarding the modeling/drainage study for Palm Beach Country Estates, pricing has been received from Legacy Surveying and it is substantially lower than the estimate. They have confirmed their quote. The fee is expected to be under \$100,000 for the study. Ms. Brandon explained the benefits of the study, comparing it to the Section 7 project where new outfall locations were designed for drainage. It was determined where the high points were in the system and several culverts were replaced as a result, and improvements were designed. The District was able to obtain grant funding for the project. Mr. Howard stated an additional benefit is to make sure the system is working as it should. Ms. Brandon noted that this area does not have a model. She confirmed that the modeling done in Section 7 had been very helpful. **After a brief discussion by the Board and staff, Ms. Kennedy made a motion to move forward with the modeling/drainage study for Palm Beach Country Estates. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Haas suggested amending this year's budget to accommodate the cost. Ms. Kennedy amended her motion to include approving the budget amendment as suggested. The amended motion carried unanimously.** The Board agreed this study should begin as soon as possible.

Ms. Brandon then presented an update regarding the Florida Power & Light and Busch Wildlife culvert issue. She is trying to schedule a site meeting prior to the work being started.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. There is legislation that will require Board members to have four hours of education on ethics and the Sunshine Law, effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Behn attended a

discussion of what exactly will be required, i.e., possibly a webinar. Mr. Capko will keep the Board advised.

Mr. Howard called for discussion of any new business. Ms. Kennedy reported she attended the recent Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council meeting in Mr. Dillon's absence. The Council is putting together a committee to study the science behind the restoration of the Loxahatchee River. They will be looking for sponsorship and Ms. Kennedy suggested this may be an opportunity for South Indian River Water Control District to present the Section 7 project.

Mr. Dillon reported that Terra Tech has agreed to continue with their aquatic weed spraying contract for an additional two years at the same cost. **Mr. Jones made a motion to continue with Terra Tech's contract. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

ADJOURNED.