

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
HELD ON MAY 16, 2019**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on May 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at Jupiter High School, 500 N. Military Trail, Jupiter, Florida. Present were Supervisors Steve Hinkle, Tom Powell, John Meyer, Michael Howard and John Jones. Also present were Amy Eason, engineer; Ketty Labossiere for Charles Haas, treasurer; William Capko, attorney; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Laura Bender, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Three landowners were also present.

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

Mr. Matt Gitkin, landowner, commented on the lack of a timely agenda for this meeting on the website. He thanked the Budget Committee for the workshop meeting on May 7th, which he found to be very informative. He noted he was in favor of the West Basin plan as a whole.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Bender presented the public information report. Their office attended a webinar regarding ADA compliance. She noted they will work harder to get information on the website in a more timely manner.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. Plans for the workshop have been submitted and bids are being received for the work center. Ms. Eason presented the engineer's report. The final costs for the 19th Plan are expected to be available in July after the review of the final change orders. There have been no new petitions for paving. The construction plans for the workshop have been received and are being reviewed

Ms. Eason reported that the Loxahatchee River Water Restoration Plan's draft was released in March and two public meetings were held. Comments from SIRWCD were submitted by letter to the Army Corps of Engineers. The District is now working with SFWMD to modify the current agreement on the operation of the G-92 structure. Ms. Eason is currently getting clarity on setting elevations.

Ms. Eason reported on a meeting in April with FDEP to discuss the status of the RAP. PLSM model results were reviewed. Apparently loading reductions are not being met; there is a need to verify this with FDEP. Ms. Eason explained and discussed the methodology of the projects. Mr. Meyer noted that the plan is going to look at weirs and this will be advantageous to the District.

Ms. Eason discussed the emergency debris removal contract which is for three years with two additional one-year renewal provisions. The contract will have a payment and performance bond up to \$300,000. Three bids were received based on an arbitrary amount. The bids were from \$2.1 million to \$9.4 million. Ms. Eason discussed the discrepancies in these bids and recommended hiring all three contractors. She recommended approving ATL at this time; then after further discussions with the others, she would recommend approving them in July. The cost would be \$13,000/year for a performance fee, even if there are no storms. All three contractors have done work in Florida. Mr. Powell questioned if there is a budget for debris cleanup and Ms. Eason stated it would be handled similar to what was done after Hurricane Irma. Mr. Hinkle noted this would give the District better standing with FEMA. Mr. Dillon explained that if the District is hit by a storm, it will already have a contractor in place and cleanup can be started immediately. Ms. Eason explained that in the past the District had to receive bids from contractors who may be busy with other work, possibly resulting in higher bids. She noted that in 2008 similar contracts were for approximately \$3 million. She also noted the District could probably use these contractors in non-emergency situations. After further discussion by the Board, Mr. Jones made a motion authorizing retaining the three debris removal contractors as recommended. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Meyer presented the Board with an outline for continuing with the Section 7 project, proceeding with Section 18. He explained that the next logical step is to fund a master plan, and prepare an amendment to the water control plan that would address engineering, costs, drainage, maintenance and storage. He discussed larger culverts and raising the roads. Two more sections have been budgeted at \$110,000. He suggested applying these funds to the engineering plan during the next fiscal year and then presenting it to the landowners. Mr. Powell noted that from a concept standpoint, the engineer needs to develop a plan defining the benefits with cost comparisons. Once the plan is adopted, bonds can be sold to finance the project. The Board needs to establish what it is trying to achieve and the benefits must exceed the cost. Ms. Eason stated she needs to finish the initial analysis before going on to the master plan. It will be difficult to establish benefits since there is already a water control plan in place. A discussion followed regarding establishing benefits and the cost of an amended plan. Mr. Capko agreed to present more information at the next meeting. Ms. Eason suggested updating the concept model to determine the benefits. Mr. Powell discussed extrapolating what was learned from Section 7 and determine what that could do for the rest of the District. Defining these details could become the basis of the plan. The Board agreed to move forward with Section 18 and keep this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Dillon asked about plans for clearing outfalls in Section 7 and also noted there are some easement issues. Mr. Hinkle stated the District has the equipment to clear the outfalls itself. Mr. Dillon also noted the District can raise the roads; riser culverts could be put on hold until there is more information. The Board discussed whether to spend money developing a plan or to increase maintenance. Ms. Eason suggested doing both, proceeding with what can be done by the District under the operations and maintenance budget. This will be discussed with Mr. Haas at the next Board meeting in July.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. He stated the legislative session ended without major problems for special districts. The next session starts in January. Mr. Capko noted that if there is going to be an amendment to the Special Act, work needs to start in August.

Mr. Jones reported on the Budget Committee meeting held on May 7th. Five landowners attended. The Board discussed large budget items and line items with increases. There was discussion regarding how expenditures are apportioned, culvert installation and larger parcels that produce more runoff. Details of the section analysis were also discussed, as well as the need to put together an alternative plan. Mr. Matt Gitkin, landowner, commented that landowners are in favor of the track the Board is taking.

The Board discussed direct discharge into the secondary drainage system. Mr. Meyer noted that, at the present, discharge cannot be pumped into the swales. He suggested establishing a policy on certain sizes of pipe that can drain into the swales and ditches. Mr. Dillon questioned if the pipes would require a permit. Mr. Powell noted that the District was created to drain the land into the canals. The Plan of Reclamation has no provision for retention, only to move the water off the land. He questioned if the concern now is for water retention. Mr. Meyer stated the properties need to store water, giving the District flood protection. The stormwater also needs to percolate into the soil. Mr. Meyer stated he would like to establish a policy for getting water to the swales. Mr. Howard stated the current policy does not provide for modification of the swales; putting in a drainage pipe would modify the swales. The Board agreed to discuss this issue again at the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the District Work Center.

ADJOURNED.