

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HELD MAY 17, 2018

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on May 17, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Jupiter High School, 500 N. Military Trail, Jupiter, Florida. Present were Supervisors Steve Hinkle, Tom Powell, John Meyer, and John Jones. Also present were Charles Haas, treasurer; Amy Eason, engineer; William Capko, attorney; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Laura Bender, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Eight landowners were also present.

Mr. Hinkle called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given. He announced that the monthly meetings will return to their previous time of 7:00.

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

Ms. Bender presented the public information report. The website has been updated. The next newsletter has been started. Staff met to review the Policies & Procedures Manual. Earlier this month, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to William Dean, a local contractor, acknowledging his assistance in deeding a drainage easement to the District which will provide benefits to 10-15 homes on Sandy Run. Mr. Dillon stated a cross pipe will be in the budget for next year, which will be an additional benefit to those landowners.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. The annual audit report has been delivered to each Board member and they all confirmed receipt of same.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. He requested Board approval of the purchase of an SVL 95 Skid Steer for use in culvert installations. An experienced operator has been hired towards creating a crew for this program, which has been averaging four installations/week. Mr. Dillon now expects to place 8-10 culverts/week. Two bids were received and he recommended approval of the purchase from Kubota for \$66,181. After a brief discussion, Mr. Meyer made a motion to approve the purchase. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Dillon reported almost six inches of rainfall in the District this week. There have been no issues, but more rain is expected.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. He spoke with the Supervisor of Elections regarding including a straw poll with the election ballots, but she was not receptive to mailing anything other than the statutory mandated ballots.

Ms. Eason presented the engineer's report. Regarding the 19th Plan of Improvements, bids were received ranging from \$858,000 to \$1.2 million. The low bidder, Rosso Site Development, Inc., came in under the originally estimated construction costs. Ms. Eason requested Board approval for awarding the contract to this bidder. Although the District has never used this company before, it has worked for the County on asphalt paving projects. She reported the bid was \$470,000/mile including engineering and construction. Mr. Meyer noted this is \$42,000 less than what was estimated. Mr. Haas stated that interest rates are trending upwards so actual costs may be higher than estimated. Mr. Haas expects a proposal from Regions Bank in about a week, which should reflect an interest rate between 4% and 5%. He explained that the recent tax cut program has an inverse effect on interest rates. Banks are now charging higher interest rates because the corporate tax rate has been reduced. The referendum stated the rate will be based on prevailing interest rates. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve awarding the contract to Rosso Site Development as recommended by the engineer. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board agreed to recess this meeting and reconvene on May 31st at 6:00 p.m. at the Work Center to review the proposal from Regions Bank.

Ms. Eason reported only one petition was received for .4 miles of asphalt paving in Palm Beach Country Estates. April 30th was the deadline for petitions. She requested Board direction. Mr. Hinkle stated the petitioners met the qualifications and should be allowed to go to referendum. Ms. Eason confirmed the petitioner was advised of the 90% level of approval required, and the petition fee of \$300 was paid. Mr. Meyer made a motion directing this project to proceed to referendum. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Eason reported on the District's application to NRCS. There are now funds available in the original requested amount of \$240,673. Ms. Eason requested Board approval of the upper limit of \$240,000. After a brief discussion of cost sharing, Mr. Powell made a motion approving this amount. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Eason participated in the Project Delivery Team meeting for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan. Originally the Plan was part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan which restores and sustains the overall quality and distribution of fresh waters to the Loxahatchee River. The Plan delivers more water through the G-92 structure. At the meeting, they discussed several alternative plans to help push water up and improve the flows of the Loxahatchee River. They discussed performance measures to restore the River. Ms. Eason explained the elements of the Plan, including increased water levels in the north area and more water in the G-92 structure. The main goal is to increase water during dry periods and push fresh water into the Loxahatchee River. She presented the study schedule and recommendations for the project. If the group agrees with the plan's cost and analysis, the next step is for the agency to endorse the Plan. This is anticipated to be in January, 2019. At that time it will have to be shown that the Plan will not negatively impact anyone.

Ms. Eason met with the County on May 11th regarding the fill permit. There will be no permit requirement for minor fill. New construction activity shall not adversely impact the legal historic surface water drainage flows serving adjacent properties. There may be a requirement for a special drainage design complying with engineering standards to preserve the positive drainage patterns of the affected sites. The County will ask SIRWCD for guidance on the allowable fill. The County will utilize their existing guidelines for allowing fill and will notify SIRWCD of significant activities. Slope requirements will be added. It was noted that the District is more than 90% built out. Mr. Meyer was concerned that there is nothing in writing regarding the designation of a special flood hazard area, but noted this issue is moving in a positive direction.

Ms. Eason noted the District needs to be better prepared in terms of emergency debris management after a hurricane. She would like to have contractors on call. Funding through FEMA requires an emergency plan that abides by their standards so Ms. Eason will be updating the District's plan.

Work has begun in Section 7 regarding known easements. This section is unique because part of it used to be an unplatted subdivision. Ms. Eason has obtained a preliminary price from a surveyor for cross sections of all drainage easements. The next step will be a contract for surveying the section.

Ms. Eason discussed the concept plan for improvements in the District, including purchasing land to improve drainage. She now has an updated map and will conduct preliminary calculations. The main part will begin in September when she has lidar information from the County.

Mr. Hinkle requested an update on the Policies and Procedures Manual. Mr. Capko stated the staff has taken individual sections of the manual to review and will then present them to the committee (Messrs. Howard and Meyer) in June. After committee review, the manual will be presented to the Board. He noted he has discarded portions of the manual which were based on Chapter 120 requirements which the District is no longer required to follow.

Mr. Hinkle asked the attorney for something to protect the District when something is placed on its land. Mr. Capko discussed enforcement of easements and removal of items if needed. He agreed to prepare a form that protects the District so there is no question as to its easements.

Mr. Jones discussed the straw poll in Palm Beach Country Estates. He will put something together that accomplishes what the enhanced contract used to, so a poll is not necessary at this time.

Mr. Haas requested input regarding next year's budget, especially any changes in the level of service. The Board and staff were asked to give such information to Mr. Dillon.

Mr. Dillon discussed combining the June and July meetings and suggested 7:00 on Wednesday, July 11th, since there is security on the premises only on Wednesdays during the summer. Mr. Meyer stated he will be out of town, but everyone else was in agreement.

Mr. Matt Gitkin, landowner, thanked Mr. Dillon for attending and speaking at a homeowners' meeting. He also asked about the content of the annual audit and Mr. Haas confirmed that the audit had a clean opinion.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Powell made a motion to recess the meeting until May 31st at 6:00 at the Work Center. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RECESSED.