

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HELD ON APRIL 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held April 18, 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; Charles Haas, treasurer; William Capko, attorney; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Laura Bender, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Seven landowners were also present.

Mr. Hinkle 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. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Ms. Bender presented the public information report. She reported on the success of Landowners Family Day held on March 16th. The March newsletter has been mailed to the landowners. Work continues on revising and recreating the District's website in order to create a new ADA compliant site.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. The Budget Committee had a formal meeting yesterday with discussion of principles for preparing the budget. The Committee is still refining the budget and expects to have reduced assessments for the coming year. Messrs. Powell and Jones commented there were productive discussions at the meeting.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. As of March of this year, the culvert program has installed 77 culverts. Murray Logan has finished the box culvert replacements, and Rosso Site Development has completed paving for the 19th Plan. The sod installation was finished a few days ago.

Mr. Dillon requested Board approval to renew the canal spraying contract for an additional two years at the same price. Mr. Powell made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Powell inquired about any benefit in terms of hydrology with the box culverts. Ms. Eason stated reduction of the collection of debris helps with the hydraulics.

Ms. Eason presented the engineer's report. She reported the contractor has substantially completed the 19th Plan and the utility pole has been relocated. Some striping needs to be done prior to final inspection.

Ms. Eason presented slides of the 175th Road and 176th Road box culverts that were installed. She noted that only one road petition has been requested, and the deadline is April 30th.

The contractors are working on plans for the District Workshop improvements, and these will be reviewed as soon as they are ready.

Ms. Eason discussed the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. This is a Plan to restore, sustain and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form historic headwaters for the River.

SIRWCD is the main thoroughfare for water coming in. She presented a map showing where the various flowways are located. The Army Corp of Engineers released a report in March with a 45-day review period.

There are two public hearings scheduled, one tonight that Mr. Meyer is currently attending and one tomorrow that Ms. Eason will be attending. The Tentative Selected Plan (TSP) will undergo additional analysis using new modeling tools developed specifically to assess potential flooding. The WRDA-2000 recognized that the CERP was conceptual in nature and refinements will be required. More localized analyses will be performed if there is an indication of significant increase in flood risk from the regional analysis. Ms. Eason recommended drafting a statement that says SIRWCD is generally supportive of the restoration project, and also states our concerns regarding the potential loss of flood protection resulting from the implementation of the TSP. The communities affected rely solely upon gravity discharges to the receiving waters that would be subject to the hydrologic modifications proposed. The Board requested additional studies and modeling to provide assurances that the level of protection required by the CERP be achieved prior to the implementation of this project. Mr. Powell was concerned that this also meets the District's Plan of Reclamation. Ms. Eason will reword the statement to include that concern. Mr. Powell then made a motion to prepare the recommended statement, including the concern regarding the District's Plan of Reclamation. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The statement will be prepared by Ms. Eason.

Mr. Howard asked if there is an increase in flow at the southwest fork also. Ms. Eason stated the bulk is going to the northwest. Mr. Howard noted there is a significant amount of water from upstream as well as from downstream. Mr. Powell agreed this is important to the operation. Ms. Eason agreed that this issue will be looked at and appropriate facilities will be included.

Mr. John Meyer joined the meeting at this time, having just attended the first public hearing on this matter. He commented on the need to go on record at the next public hearing because of the potential for more water in our system. He communicated these concerns to SFWMD at tonight's hearing.

Ms. Eason reported on Section 7. The analysis has been mostly about the hydraulics of the system in order to see how to move water through the Section. The current model has six basins. There are 89 acres contributing to one of the outfalls. Canal 3 is on the north border, and Canal 5 is to the south. It is the lowest Section in the District. Control structure locations were pointed out. The existing outfall has 24" pipes. She noted hydraulics need to be improved, with some pipes increased to 48" and with additional outfalls. It would be ideal to acquire rights-of-ways to have more outfall. Ms. Eason showed a diagram of the flow direction and discussed this in detail. She suggested title searches for old plats and existing easements. She also suggested increasing the elevation of the roads, as well as widening the swales. In summary, Ms. Eason proposed expanding existing drainage swales, clearing drainage easements, adding swales, increasing outfall pipe size and adding risers, and raising existing roads. She also proposed increasing storage and swales by a foot or more. The benefits would be reduced flood stages, added storage, increased discharge structures, and decreased head loss in the system, as well as a reduction in pollutants in grass swales and dry detention. Ms. Eason discussed cost estimates, noting that some of the work can be done cheaper in-house. Estimates included general conditions \$73,000, easement clearing \$200,000, ditch shaping \$230,000, raising roads \$84,000, driveway culverts \$18,000, roadway culverts \$28,000, outfalls \$107,000, and contingency \$74,000, for a total of \$814,000. Some of these items would come under normal operation and maintenance. She suggested title searches on some areas of uncertainty. The program could be done in phases: outfall structures and clearing first, then ditches and culverts, and lastly raising the roads. Mr. Powell stated this is just a piece of what needs to be looked at. When the G92 is opened, that water will go into Section 7. If the Board looks at the bigger picture and puts together a plan, that would be a new Plan of Reclamation with subsequent sale of bonds which would spread out the financing. He also suggested looking at other low areas with similar problems as well as restoration of the River. Mr. Meyer agreed and stated he would like to see an overall modeling for Jupiter Farms, Section 7, and Loxahatchee River watershed restoration, which would give a better idea of how to proceed. Ms. Eason stated the majority of pipes throughout the District are 24", so there will be similar problems in other Sections.

She briefly discussed trying to obtain funding but noted money may only be available for water quality, not flood protection. Mr. Hinkle asked if the District should be looking at increasing the size of pipes throughout the District, and Ms. Eason confirmed this should be done. A lengthy discussion followed regarding broadening this study throughout the District.

Mr. Meyer questioned how much additional information could be obtained from studying two more Sections as originally planned. Ms. Eason stated it would help to develop a capital improvement project.

The next studies will be easier because there is now a template based on Section 7. Mr. Hinkle questioned how landowners would be affected by increasing the road elevation; he was concerned they may have to modify existing structures.

The Board then discussed the various levels of studying future Sections. Ms. Eason noted that the objective is to provide extra storage and this is an opportunity to reclaim storage loss. Mr. Hinkle asked if the cost would be less now that LIDAR is available, but Ms. Eason could not confirm it would be less. Mr. Howard wanted to consider holding off until the Board can see what other models show and what should be done as to Section 7. He suggested doing one more Section sometime in the future. He was concerned with focusing on the details for Section 7 and the large expenditure that will be required. He was also concerned about proceeding with two more Sections and the amount of work that will be needed. Ms. Eason noted this is a planning exercise and could be handled as a 10-year plan. Mr. Jones stated he would like to proceed with the next Section using a slightly scaled-down method. Mr. Hinkle requested an estimated cost for Sections 12 and 18 at the next meeting. Mr. Haas noted that because this is more of a project than a regular budget item, this is considered a capital project and fiscal year lapsing does not affect it. Mr. Meyer made a motion to table proceeding with the next two Sections in order to see the concept model. Mr. Powell did not want to table the work. He wanted to continue with the model as well as continue working on the project in phases. Mr. Howard commented that the data from one more Section would probably be as good as the data from two more Sections. He did not think there would be double the benefit if the Board proceeded with two Sections. Ms. Eason suggested Section 18 if the decision was to proceed with just one Section, as it is more representative of the entire District. There was no second to Mr. Meyer's motion. Mr. Howard then made a motion to proceed with the study of Section 18, and also work on the overall model. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Hinkle inquired if the petition for road paving was in Jupiter Farms or Palm Beach Country Estates but Ms. Eason did not have that information.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. There has been no legislation impacting special districts during this session. He was concerned about the taxation transparency legislation. Government charges like special assessments would be re-named as taxes. In theory, this does not change the nature of the District but there will certainly be challenges to special benefit taxes. As of now, this bill is in the Senate and has not been heard. Mr. Capko stated there has been no interaction with the new Governor yet. It was noted that he has had little experience with state government.

Mr. Hinkle inquired about having better recording of deeds in order to reflect easements in the District. Mr. Capko commented this is a good issue.

Mr. Hinkle stated there are several landowners who have drainage systems going into our secondary water control structures. He questioned if they should be obtaining permits. Mr. Meyer's opinion was that it should not be allowed and there should be a policy to this effect. There was a brief discussion regarding this issue and it was decided to table further discussion until the next Board meeting due to time constraints.

Ms. Susan Kennedy, landowner, requested the schedule for the budget workshop and/or any meetings. Mr. Haas stated the Budget Committee met yesterday and the next budget meeting will be the public hearing. No workshop has been scheduled at this time.

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

ADJOURNED.