

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2019

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on January 17, 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 approving the consent agenda. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Bender presented the public information report. The latest newsletter has been sent out. She reminded everyone that Family Day is scheduled for March 16th. Mr. Capko noted there is no specific date when the website must be ADA compliant as long as the District is in the process of updating it.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. The revised financial statements have been sent out to the Board members; the original statements did not include certain transactions. Mr. Haas has not yet reviewed the invoices from the bank. Mr. Meyer questioned why there cannot be an extra line on the TRIM bill to explain payments. Mr. Haas explained that the TRIM bill is a very formal legalized document. If every agency used four lines, it would not be practical. He also noted that only two districts make assessments a per-acreage and per-parcel bases. The tax bill will show the additional information, but the TRIM bill will not. It is a vehicle to inform taxpayers what the total taxes will be, not the composition of those taxes.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. He recommended renewing the maintenance contract for Berman Park for another year at the same price. There have been no complaints from the landowners and no issues with Schoen Landscaping. Mr. Jones made a motion to renew this contract. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Eason presented the engineer's report. She updated the 19th Plan of Improvements. A substantial completion inspection was conducted resulting in a punch list of items. One road (175th) has not been completed due to box culvert installation, but it should be finished in four to six weeks. The end date in the contract is January so there will need to be an extension.

There is another enhanced stabilization project for 74th Avenue North. Petitions were accepted in 2018 reaching the minimum requirement. The estimated cost is \$200,000. The referendum was prepared and sent out. There will need to be approval from 17 of the 18 lots in order to meet the 90% requirement.

Regarding the District workshop, the contractor is finishing the required paperwork. The property will then be surveyed in order to obtain the building permit.

Ms. Eason updated the Board on the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. She has been attending weekly meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers and SFWMD. A draft schedule has been presented. After a 45-day review period, Ms. Eason will report how it affects SIRWCD.

The NRCS funding for Hurricane Irma is 99% complete; \$144,383.41 was the final request.

Ms. Eason reported on Section 7. The preliminary survey was received and reviewed; it is still missing information regarding outfalls. It is still being analyzed for consistency throughout the Section. The next step is to obtain drainage and water quality calculations, prepare a proposed plan of improvements, and present this to the Board with cost estimates. Ms. Eason discussed the concept plan for improvements throughout the entire District, determining potential projects from a water quality standpoint. The current model was done in 2002-2003 as part of the 9th Plan of Reclamation. The LIDAR now provides more details as to how much storage is in the C-18 Basin. It shows more storage in the lower areas. Work was performed on the base map of available parcels and converted into an updated platform. This work will help the District prepare a 5-10 year plan.

Mr. Hinkle questioned if there is any way SIRWCD can obtain funds from the State for maintaining water quality. Ms. Eason noted there was an application submitted last year. The State will look at impaired water funding first. Mr. Powell noted that landowners also want drainage and funding for that, and the Board will have to look at both. If there is no funding for water quality, that could hurt drainage. Mr. Meyer was also concerned with funding for water quality.

Mr. Jones questioned the status of FEMA. Mr. Dillon stated one project was approved. Usually once FEMA approves a project it goes to the State for auditor approval. The other two projects are in final review.

Mr. Capko presented the attorney's report. He is expediting the updating of the procurement policy. After another review, it will be circulated to the staff prior to the February meeting. Mr. Capko also reported there is no general special district legislation proposed to date.

The Board then discussed the culvert replacement program. Mr. Dillon reported this program began in March, 2016, due to concerns about landowners not replacing culverts. There is now a crew devoted to this program on a daily basis. Overall improvements have been noted after rainfalls. Mr. Dillon did not see a need to raise the installation fees at this time, but due to the increased cost of materials, he recommended that installation of end walls on county culverts should be the responsibility of the homeowner. He recommended staying at \$300 for the basic installation and \$650 for county pipes. Also, if a landowner wants a 30' pipe instead of a 20' pipe, they should be charged the full price of the culvert.

Mr. Haas suggested no change in the charges for the current fiscal year, but to review this item in future budgets. Mr. Meyer made a motion to charge \$650 for county pipes if the District is not doing the end walls. Mr. Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Meyer thanked the staff for looking into these costs. He wanted landowners to know that the costs are minimal and basically include materials only, with the District providing the labor. It was noted that as the culvert program expands, it will benefit more landowners.

The Board agreed to have more discussion on the culvert replacement program at a workshop, possibly in May. They also wanted further discussion on the Section 7 program, and the accounting breakdown for the various programs. The Board had a lengthy discussion of what topics to discuss in the workshop, as well as when it should be scheduled in order to provide the budget committee with information in a timely manner.

Ms. Susan Kennedy, landowner, stated that the current procedures for determining costs are inadequate and without clarity and accountability. She wants to have public discussions regarding the overall plans and policies in the District, and wants landowners to have a clearer understanding of the financial impact of any new programs. She asked the Board to look at how the budget information is presented to the public so they can be involved in the discussion of policies and priorities, and to have several workshops prior to the preparation of the budget.

Ms. Eason presented estimates of the Section 7 analysis. To date, the survey has been obtained and \$40,295 has been billed. Approximately \$2,497 has been spent on engineering, leaving approximately \$11,000 in the budget to complete the analysis. She noted this is a pilot program that will help in planning future projects. Mr. Powell asked what the objectives are for the future, especially in terms of flood protection and drainage. He stated the need to balance storage and water quality with flood protection and drainage. Mr. Meyer stated the Board is being proactive in gathering data as to water quality. He believes there can be storage that provides flood protection and also addresses water quality. Mr. Howard noted that the information from the Section 7 pilot program will be relevant throughout the District as far as the maintenance or system design.

Mr. Matt Gitkin, landowner, stated he was concerned about both water quality and drainage. He would like to know the costs of the programs both on a per-parcel and per-acre basis, and how each individual landowner is affected. Ms. Jennifer Corcoran, landowner, thanked Mr. Dillon and Mr. Matt Wood for the work done on the 173rd Terrace swales. Mr. Mike Clark, landowner, stated he had recently spoken with Mr. Dillon regarding removing trees from behind his house. Mr. Dillon informed him what could be cut safely. There was also a survey shown to Mr. Dillon, which revealed an easement, and Mr. Dillon explained the rights of the government to use the easement. There were excavations made with drainage outfall, relieving the surrounding homes. Because of this positive relationship with Mr. Dillon, the residents of 134th Terrace North presented Mr. Dillon with a plaque of appreciation.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned.
ADJOURNED.