

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL LANDOWNERS' MEETING
OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

The annual landowners' meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on September 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Work Center, 15600 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida, and via Zoom video conferencing. Present were Supervisors, Michael Howard, Tom Powell, John Jones and Susan Kennedy. Also present were Karen Brandon, engineer; Charles Haas, treasurer; Paul Polito, attorney; Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Eight landowners were present in person. Supervisor John Meyer and one landowner were present via Zoom video conferencing.

Mr. Howard called the annual landowners' meeting to order. Mr. Matt Gitkin nominated Michael Howard as chairman of the meeting and Jane Woodard as secretary. There were no other nominations and no opposition. Mr. Howard and Ms. Woodard were unanimously elected.

Mr. Gitkin made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2022 annual landowners' meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

Mr. Howard opened the floor to nominations for supervisor. Mr. Gitkin nominated Mr. Tom Powell for the non-resident landowner position. The nomination was seconded and carried unanimously. There were no other nominations and Mr. Gitkin made a motion to close the floor to further nominations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion was made to continue with the same monthly compensation for the supervisors. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously without opposition.

A motion was made to accept the staff reports as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously without opposition.

The District's "Drainage in the District" video was shown in its entirety.

Mr. Howard opened the floor to general landowner discussion. Mr. Matt Gitkin stated he is on the Board of Directors for the Jupiter Farms Residents Association and also involved with the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. He stated he is concerned about the status of permitting by SIRWCD and SFWMD. Ms. Brandon stated she just had a conference call with the agencies involved to discuss the issues. She explained that SFWMD issued a permit with a gap in the wetlands that has been overflowing into roads at 112th. Normally permits are not issued with a gap like that and this has created drainage issues. According to the original topography of the site, the wetlands area appears to drain to the south. The swale on the south side of the property flows toward Rocky Pines. All of the discharge from that site should be going through their system and out through the control structure. She noted there is a concern about the berm issue. Busch Wildlife does not think the wetlands in that section should be filled in and they want to explore other options. Their engineer previously submitted a sketch which included an inlet-type overflow structure that would be part of the surface water management system. Ms. Brandon felt this would be acceptable but there is still a need to address the gap. Even if water overflowed at the elevation their engineer proposed, there would still be an issue. It was her opinion that this is something

that SFWMD missed. Mr. Gitkin was concerned about added expenses that were not anticipated. One plan showed a buffer area that was not designated as wetlands on the original plan. She noted that Supervisor Meyer proposed that this area be filled. Busch Wildlife wants to conduct a field review, and then explore options without a berm or the option of filling in a section of the swale. The next step is for them to schedule that field review.

Ms. Susan Kennedy stated she was concerned with existing drainage issues throughout the District. She was also concerned that this property owner is being held responsible for correcting an existing condition. Ms. Kennedy wants the District to explore alternatives to filling in or impacting wetlands. Ms. Brandon stated that the existing topography indicates drainage to the east, not the west. SFWMD has been asked to not close the permit. Mr. Gitkin stated that two weeks ago he was told SIRWCD is standing in the way of a CO being issued. It was his understanding that the District's engineer would not sign off because of an issue that everyone else missed. It was also his understanding that all conditions for approval had been met. It was Ms. Brandon's opinion that everything is being done to resolve the issue. She noted her intention is to look out for the interest of the District and work toward resolving the problem. It was Ms. Kennedy's opinion that SIRWCD did not create an issue. After everything was built and ready to be signed off on, at the last minute, this problem was noticed. It was Mr. Gitkin's opinion that both SFWMD and SIRWCD missed the problem and it was not handled properly. He believes it will cost approximately \$100,000 to fix the problem. He asked the Board to do whatever it can to

assist Busch Wildlife in resolving this matter. Ms. Kennedy stated she was uncomfortable with the way this problem has been handled and it is unfair to the landowner. Ms. Brandon stated she was under the impression that they are not holding anything up. Ms. Kennedy stated she wants to be sure that Busch Wildlife is included in any conversations between the two agencies regarding this issue. She also wants the District to do whatever it can to find an equitable solution.

There being no other items to be discussed by the landowners, Mr. Gitkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED.

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____