

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the South Indian River Water Control District
Held on October 19, 2023**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on October 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Work Center, 15600 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida, and via Zoom video conferencing. Present in person were Supervisors Michael Howard, Tom Powell, John Meyer, and John Jones. Also present were Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Karen Brandon, engineer; Seth Behn, attorney; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Three landowners were present in person. Supervisor Susan Kennedy and two landowners were present via Zoom conferencing.

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

Mr. Behn announced there are no election results yet from the Supervisor of Elections Office.

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

Mr. Howard opened the floor to landowner discussion. Mr. Matt Gitkin discussed the Environmental Educational Center south of Sierra Square. He inquired if they have plans to connect to an area to the south, or if they will have their own enclosed system. Mr. Dillon agreed to reach out to them to discuss this matter.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. The Policies and Procedures Manual, with the recent comments, was sent to the staff for review. After Engineering and Legal changes, it will be sent back to the Committee for review. Ms. Brandon found old driveway culvert drawings and is making some changes in that section. Mr. Meyer inquired about the status of the elections section, an issue regarding wastewater, and the procedure for landowner-initiated projects. Ms. DeNinno stated the attorney needs to provide clarification regarding the elections and landowner-initiated projects. Mr. Behn will discuss this with Mr. Capko.

Mr. Haas had distributed the treasurer's report prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments in his absence.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. Schoen Landscaping has terminated their contract for Berman Park. Three new bids have been received and Mr. Dillon awarded the contract to RR Whitman Property Services. The owner is a resident of Palm Beach Country Estates and the company has a good reputation. His bid was \$1,000/month, with the low bid being \$800 and the high bid being \$1,500.

Mr. Dillon also reported that the overgrowth on the north side of Canal 2 has been removed. Mr. Jones inquired about the continued incremental clearing of the north bank of Canal E. Mr. Dillon confirmed this will continue during the fall and winter months.

Mr. Dillon discussed adopting the Premium Only Plan for 2023-2024. Currently the employees pay their portion of their insurance premium with pre-tax dollars, and this agreement would continue that plan.

Mr. Jones made a motion to continue with the Premium Only Plan. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. An internal review of the drawings for the Canal C project was performed, adding more detail. She will advertise for bids by October 29, although the work may not be done until February or March.

Ms. Brandon reported on the water quality monitoring for August and September, noting high levels of E.coli and fecal coliform in the SW-10 location (Park of Commerce). She walked the canal with Mr. Dillon, which is by a dog boarding facility. That section of canal bank had numerous droppings. The owner reported they have 50 dogs and someone is cleaning the area twice a day. They are looking to move to a larger facility. Mr. Dillon plans to put a fence there. Ms. Brandon also noted there were a lot of iguanas on the structure. Mr. Gitkin, landowner, noted that the Loxahatchee River District's station 95 at Jupiter Farms Road scored poorly for fecal coliform in September. He asked if South Indian River Water Control District is mirroring those numbers. Ms. Brandon stated she will have to look at their data for a comparison.

Ms. Brandon reported on the 20th Plan of Improvements. Legacy Survey began field work on October 18th. She will begin preparation of construction plans. The surveyor cannot begin field work in Palm Beach Country Estates until November and will probably not finish until late January or February due to the holidays.

Regarding the paving petition for 111th Terrace North between Sandy Run and 157th Place North, 157th is not paved so Ms. Brandon recommend that it be paved all the way to 159th, which is paved, noting it is typical to connect to a paved road. This petition will be processed next year.

Ms. Brandon reported on the Busch Wildlife drainage. The final inspection between the contractor, Busch's engineering consultant, and district staff was held yesterday. She was just notified that South Florida Water Management District is requiring a permit modification. They are looking for a resolution of a drainage issue at 112th and over-inundation of the wetland. According to South Florida Water Management District, if South Indian River Water Control District adds six inches of additional road material, this requires a modification of the permit. Ms. Brandon discussed the issue, stating that, in theory, there is no way for any water to leave except through the drainage system. Mr. Howard noted that the berm on the western side by the retention pond is at 17 feet, so this would be the elevation of the road. However, there is space between the berm and the road so this would not solve the problem. Water is getting onto property that does not belong to Busch. It is coming in through the wetland from either end of the berm. Raising the road does not seem to be the solution. Mr. Meyer stated Busch's engineer needs to come up with a plan and we will see if we can work with them. Mr. Howard asked if the southern berm is 17.25 feet and the road is 16.6 feet, and the berm comes all the way to the road, why does the water not come around the berm? At some point the water is higher than the road but lower than the berm. Discussion followed regarding possible mitigation, as well as non-compliance. Ms. Brandon stated the permit was issued based on information that no adverse impact will result.

Mr. Behn presented the attorney's report. The legislative report is quiet. He is working with the staff regarding a demand letter from AT&T because one of their lines was cut. However, the District has no record of being there.

Mr. Meyer reported that Mr. Dillon will be leaving his position in six months. Steps need to be taken for his replacement. He noted that since the District has changed over the past few years and become more

refined, an executive director with an engineering background should be considered to oversee the District operations. He suggested a committee explore options. Mr. Howard suggested the Board look at how the District is structured before moving forward. Mr. Powell stated the Board needs to look at the bigger picture before any reorganization. Mr. Jones noted the current job description may require a shift in the duties. Ms. Kennedy suggested a workshop as soon as possible. The Board agreed to a workshop meeting on November 16th.

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

ADJOURNED.