

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1800 27th Street, Building B
Room B1-501
Vero Beach, Florida*



Meeting Minutes – Approved

Monday, April 13, 2026

1:30 PM

Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman: Seat 1

Christine Kelly-Begazo, Vice Chairman: Seat 4

Dr. David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer: Seat 2

Adam W. Honour: Seat 3

George F. Hamner, Jr., Legislative Liaison: Seat 5

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert C. Adair, Jr. called meeting to order at 1:30 P.M

Supervisors in attendance: Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman – Seat 1
Dr. David L. Cox – Seat 2
Adam W. Honour – Seat 3 (arrived at 1:40)
Christing Kelly-Begazo – Seat 4 (arrived at 1:43)

Supervisors absent: George F. Hamner, Jr. – Seat 5

**IRC Staff and
Partners in attendance:** Eric Charest, IRC Natural Resources Assistant Director
Steven Wright, FDACS-OAWP
Matthew Cox, FDACS-OAWP
Jennifer Abbey, USDA-NRCS

Public in attendance: Honey Minuse
Marcel Barbier

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA/EMERGENCY ITEMS:**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. The Minutes for the Board Meeting of February 9, 2026 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve the February 9, 2026 Minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Hamner and seconded by Supervisor Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for April 2026 was submitted by the Treasurer for review by the Board. Supervisor Cox stated that as of April 13, 2026, the District's accounts were consolidated down into 1 checking account and 1 investment CD in accordance with authorizations provided to him by the Board at previous meetings. The CD that was set to expire on February 11, 2026 was renewed with the current balance reflecting an increase of \$236.17 based on interest earned over the 2-month period.

Supervisor Cox made note of a \$2,000.00 check that was issued against the checking account for website work that was previously approved by the Board. That \$2,000.00 payment represents ½ of the \$4,000.00 committed to the website moving project. Based on anticipated and known future expenses, Supervisor Cox did not increase contributions to the CD up to the \$50,000.00 level, but rather kept the consolidated funds into the more liquid checking account to have available for the future bills the District will be receiving. Balance in the Checking account was reported at \$8,906.38

Discussion was held regarding what level of funds the District would feel comfortable in keeping in a checking account versus increasing the CD investment that received more interest. Supervisor Hamner suggested maintaining a balance of no more than \$5,000.00 in the checking account with the rest of the funds being deposited into the CD, but after further discussion, it was recommended that the District let the Supervisor Cox continue with his approach at managing the District's accounts.

Minor edits were made to the Treasurer's Report to correct calendar dates.

Motion: Supervisor Hamner motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report with the minor date edits that were discussed. Motion seconded by Chairman Adair and passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

A. Jennifer Abbey, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

- ❖ Jennifer provided detail on the April 2026 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service report she had prepared for the District identifying activities performed since the last meeting.
- ❖ Jennifer also provided an update on the region's school level performance at the recently held Envirothon competition, with a team from St. Ed's school placing 3rd overall in the competition. Discussion ensued regarding the high level of soil teaching performed at St Ed's contributing to their excellent performance at the regional competition. The District discussed their on-going support of the Envirothon program.

B. Andrea Lazzari, Indian River County (IRC) Agricultural Extension Director/ University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Report:

- ❖ No Report – Andrea was absent from the meeting.

C. Matthew Cox, FDACS-OAWP

- ❖ Matthew initiated a discussion about the on-going efforts for BMAP parcel enrollment for agricultural properties within the BMAP area. No new numbers on enrollment were available, but as FDACS is coming up on the 2-year anniversary of their increased enrollment effort, Matthew indicated FDACS staff are busy with the biennial implementation verification visits of those properties enrolled 2 years ago.
- ❖ Matthew stated that there may be changes to the FDACS cost-share program in the future, but those changes were not clear as of the time of the meeting. Supervisor Hamner inquired about whether or not future FDACS budgets would be impacted by what is going on in Tallahassee budget discussions, but Matthew was not aware of any future impacts as of the date of the meeting.

D. Stephen Wright, FDACS-OAWP

- ❖ Stephen commented on the FDACS on-going efforts at performing biennial implementation verification visits on BMP enrolled properties.

E. Eric Charest, Indian River County Natural Resources Assistant Director:

- ❖ Eric updated the District Supervisors about County matters pertinent to the mission of the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District, including the potential for budgetary changes that could impact future support.

6. DISTRICT MATTERS:

A. Election of Board Supervisors of Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

- ❖ Chairman Adair gave a brief overview of the District Officers responsibilities that included: responsibilities associated with Dept. of Revenue forms (Sales/Tax), Audit review/responses to findings, District management compliance needs, State Depositors reports, issuance of annual payments and the annual District financial audit. Chairman Adair then opened up the floor for the nomination of District officers.

Supervisor Hamner recommended current officers be retained in their roles with Supervisor Adair being retained as the Chairman, Supervisor Kelly-Begazo being retained as the Vice-Chair, Supervisor Cox being retained as the Secretary/Treasurer and Supervisor Hamner being retained as the Legislative Liaison. Supervisor Honour seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Website Updates

- ❖ Supervisor Cox provided an update on his work to have the District's website transition from being under the control of the County to being hosted and maintained by the District. Supervisor Cox noted that a draft website would be available for District to review as early as 3 weeks from the date of the meeting. When available, Eric to send out a link to the draft website to the District Supervisors for their review and input.

C. Local Working Group Meeting to be held April 13, 2026 (immediately following this meeting)**7. OLD BUSINESS:****A. Consideration of the use of IRSWCD's cash funds**

- ❖ No new discussion was held on what to do with the District's funds.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 14:16.