

Indian River County Florida

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



**Indian River Soil and Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Meeting Minutes – Approved

Monday, November 10, 2025

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
Christine Kelly-Begazo – Seat 4
George F. Hamner, Jr. – Seat 5

Supervisors absent: Adam W. Honour – Seat 3

IRC Staff and

Partners in attendance: Eric Charest, IRC Natural Resources Assistant Director
Lisa Jensen, Division Director FDACS Fruits and Vegetables

Public in attendance: Mike Johannsen

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA/EMERGENCY ITEMS:

A. Discussion on Draft Objectives added under Section 6.0.

B. Opportunity for Lisa Jensen, Division Director of FDACS Fruits and Vegetables to speak added under Section 5.0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. The Minutes for the Board Meeting of October 6, 2025 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve the October 6, 2025 Minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Hamner and seconded by Supervisor Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for October 2025 was submitted by the Treasurer for review by the Board.

Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Hamner to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kelly-Begazo and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held with regards to authorizing Supervisor Cox as the Treasurer to obtain a Debit Card for the bank accounts in order to be used for select purchases such as membership renewals and such.

Motion: An initial Motion was made by Supervisor Hamner regarding approval for Supervisor Cox to be provided a bank card tied to the District's account and then amended to reflect the Board authorizing Supervisor Cox to get a bank card if he wants to get a card for purchases. Supervisor Kelly-Begazo seconded the amended motion and that amended motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

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

❖ Not in attendance due to Government shut down.

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

❖ Not in attendance.

**C. Matthew Cox, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**

❖ Not in attendance.

**D. Stephen Wright, Environmental Specialist II, Office of Agricultural Water Policy-
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**

❖ Not in attendance.

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

Mr. Charest reported on the recently held FDEP Spatial Watershed Iterative Loading model (SWIL) technical presentation held by the FDEP and their efforts at updating the modeling that went into the Central Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The FDEP Load Estimation Tool (LET) will be a useful tool in the toolbox to identify properties with high loading rates to the Indian River Lagoon.

F. Lisa Jensen, Division Director, FDACS Division of Fruits and Vegetables

Invited guest Lisa Jensen spoke of recent activities being undertaken by the FDECS with regards to centralizing some operations that previously were being performed in some areas by some Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Some additional efforts are to be forthcoming with the FDACS taking more programs back in house allowing County's to determine the value of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This includes FDACS assuming control over the Mobile Irrigation Labs and centralizing that effort, while making it available to agricultural producers upon request. Lisa noted that the FDACS Office of Agriculture Water Policy will be shifting some operations to be under the FDACS Bureau of Field Operations and Supervisor Hamner inquired about centralizing administrative functions of Soil and Water Conservation Districts under FDACS, but no definitive answer has been made yet. Ms. Jensen anticipates rolling out of pertinent information to come at the end of the current legislative session which won't be until April 1st.

6. DISTRICT MATTERS:

A. Website Updates

Discussion from previous meeting continued with regards to the District's needs to assume control over their website and make it compliant with State requirements. During the meeting, the Supervisors took a different approach and now will be looking at commercial website developer services to handle the website update process and to remove the website from being managed by Indian River County. A known website developer firm (Tripson) was identified as an entity to reach out to in order to get options for the District Board to consider.

Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Hamner to authorize Supervisor Cox to reach out to Tripson and investigate options at having that firm handle the District's website needs. Motion was seconded by Chairman Adair and passed unanimously.

As the District has reporting requirements that are required to be posted to the website, a timely effort in moving away from relying on the County for website support is critical. As such, a December 1 annual requirement for the District's Performance Measurers has

been requested that the County post on the District’s website in order to be in compliance.

Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Cox to request the County post the District’s Draft Performance Measurers to the website maintained by the County while the District works on finalizing the document as well as moves towards hosting their own website through an outside firm. Chairman Adair seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Future Meeting Frequency and Schedules:

A proposed 2026 calendar was provided to the District Supervisors created by Eric Charest designed at maintaining the monthly meeting frequency. Discussion ensued on that calendar and whether or not the meeting frequency should change. As Supervisor Honour was not in attendance, no decision was made on the meeting frequency and therefore this item will be tabled until the December regularly scheduled District meeting.

C. Special District Handbook (September 2024 edition) and District requirements

An electronic copy of the Florida Commerce Florida Special District Handbook (September 2024 edition) was provided to all Supervisors by Eric Charest with attention paid to annual requirements for District reporting identified in that book. Discussions were held with regards to who will be keeping tabs on the District’s requirements in order to ensure that the District remains in compliance with all requirements. Lisa Jensen from FDACS did point out to the Supervisors that Administrative functions could be discussed amongst the Supervisors and that would not be in violation of the Sunshine Law as long as those discussions would not persuade Supervisors to vote on upcoming items in any way.

D. Training Resource: <https://www.bradfordsoilandwater.org/florida-swcd-training>
Material on this website was pointed out as being helpful for District responsibilities.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

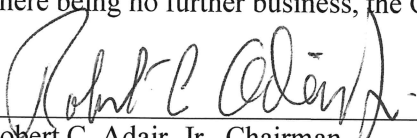
A. Consideration of the use of IRSWCD’s cash funds

No further discussion was had on this topic.

8. NEW BUSINESS:


9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 15:24.



Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman

12-08-2025
Date



David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

12/08/2025
Date