

Indian River County Florida

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



Meeting Minutes – Approved

Monday, December 8, 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
Adam W. Honour – Seat 3

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

IRC Staff and

Partners in attendance: Eric Charest, IRC Natural Resources Assistant Director
Andrea Lazzari, IRC Extension Director
Jennifer Abbey, USDA-NRCS
Matthew Cox, OAWP-FDACS

Public in attendance: Honey Minuse

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

A. 2025 Audit discussion added under Section 6.0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. The Minutes for the Board Meeting of November 10, 2025 were approved as written.

Motion: A Motion to approve the November 10, 2025 Minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Honour. Motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. The Financial Report for October 2025 was submitted by the Treasurer for review by the Board. Supervisor Cox stated that he was to get with Vanessa at South State Bank and request that the Bank Analysis fees get reversed as has historically been done when requested by Linda.

Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Honour to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Chairman Adair. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

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

- ❖ Report provided in advance and discussed by Jennifer upon her arrival. Jennifer indicated that the NRCS was slowly coming back on-line after the recent government shutdown, but that funding appears to be in place through to 2032, although acknowledged that it is annually appropriated.
- ❖ Jennifer reported that the 2018 Farm bill was still in effect, and that the deadline for funding requests was extended through to January 2026 with possible extensions beyond that being discussed internally.

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

- ❖ Andrea provided an update on her efforts on working on the required UF Annual Reports. In addition, Andrea announced the February 26, 2026 Envirothon schedule at the Environmental Learning Center, with Andrea co-chairing the program along with a representative from the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District. Supervisor Cox indicated he would like to participate.
 - ❖ Chairman Adair began a discussion with Andrea regarding the UF IFAS efforts on slowing the decline of citrus in Indian River County as the commodity is barely hanging on. Questions revolved around diversity in the citrus fields and what UF is doing to explore alternative crops, such as peaches, pomegranates, olives, hemp, bamboo, avocados, guava and mangoes.
- C. Matthew Cox, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Agricultural Water Policy- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (OAWP-FDACS) Report:**
- ❖ Matthew reported that the FDACS cost-share grant program was continuing. He also provided some background information on the CRAFT (Citrus Research and Field Trial) program that allows some cattle producers to participate in Citrus research efforts.
 - ❖ Discussions ensued with Matthew indicating that state approved legislative funds under the CRAFT program would go directly to participating entities as opposed to getting distributed through the UF/IFAS program.
- 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:**
- ❖ Eric requested an update from the Board on their efforts at moving the District's website off of the County hosted platform so that the District would have control over website contents and be able to make updates as necessary. Eric did confirm that the request from the District in November to post the draft District Goals and Objectives was posted on the website hosted by the County in accordance with District requirements.

6. DISTRICT MATTERS:

A. Website Updates

- ❖ District continues to explore options at hosting their own website, although not yet complete. No Board action was made under this item.

B. 2026 Meeting 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. Discussions centered around changing frequency to a bi-monthly frequency which was agreed to by several participating entities in the District meetings.

Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Cox to change the proposed calendar of 2026 meetings to reflect a bi-monthly frequency with the first meeting in 2026 being held on February 9th, 2026 and then following the proposed meeting schedule dates of every-other month. The motion was amended to change the October 12th proposed date to October 5, 2026 in observance of Columbus Day celebrations on October 12th. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Honour. Motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

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

- ❖ Discussion was held on what to do with the District's funds. As there will be expenses associated with the new internet hosting service and website update, along with fees associated with the auditing requirement for 2025, it was determined that no action on the disbursement of any District funds beyond what has been approved by Board action was needed. No further discussion was had on this topic.

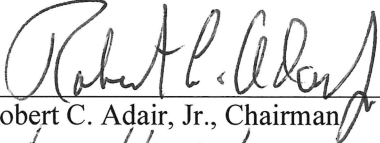
8. NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Board discussion on the requirement for the District to have a 2025 Audit conducted was held. Discussion included recognition of the firm that had historically provided the annual auditing services to the District to have them perform the 2025 audit as well.

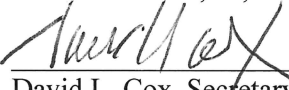
Motion: A Motion was made by Supervisor Cox to move forward with using the same firm for the District's 2025 audit and authorize expenditure of District funds for that audit to be completed. Motion was seconded by Chairman Adair and passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 14:33.



Robert C. Adair, Jr., Chairman



David L. Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

Feb. 09, 2026
Date

02/09/2026
Date