



## Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

### Monthly Meeting – December 10, 2007

**Supervisors in attendance:** Chairman: David Gunter, Vice-Chairman: Robert Adair, Jr.,  
Treasurer: Alexander (Lex) Kromhout, Member: Marvin Carter,

**Absent:** Member: Robert Lindsey

**Staff in attendance:** Brenda Davis, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD  
Mark Pomar, Conservation District Coordinator, IRSWCD  
Elwood Holzworth, Soil Conservation Technician, USDA/NRCS  
Carol Johnson, FDACS Office of Ag Water Policy  
Janet Bargar, UF/IFAS Extension

**Guests in Attendance:** Marian E. Fell, Assistant County Attorney  
Tom Hammond, Hammond Groves  
Mike Ziegler

### OLD BUSINESS

1. The IRSWCD meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Bob Adair, Vice Chairman.
2. There were no changes to the Agenda.
3. There was one change requested to the November 5, 2007 meeting minutes.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the amended November meeting minutes was made by Marvin Carter and seconded by Lex Kromhout. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer Lex Kromhout gave the financial report for the month of November.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the November financial report including the petty cash and credit card registers was made by Marvin Carter and seconded by Robert Adair. Motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

5. The presentation to the cooperator of the year was delayed until Chairman David Gunter arrived.
6. Item number 6 was delayed awaiting the arrival of the Chairman.
7. Vice Chairman Adair called on Brenda to begin the discussion on the speaking contest and travel expenses. She explained that the speaking contest guidelines that the Board had charged Kevin Sullivan, NRCS Soil Scientist with contained items that required



## Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

discussion and Board approval. These items included holding the contest in the evening so that parents and relatives could attend and paying for the winner's travel expenses to the next levels of competition.

Lex brought up an issue that was discussed in the past concerning liability and suggested that the payment be labeled something other than travel. A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Gunter entered the meeting at 1:17 PM. Brenda reviewed the issues currently being discussed.

The Board directed Brenda to provide for an evening contest but also check on whether the judges would be able to attend an evening contest.

A brief discussion followed on the issue of liability if the Board paid for the speaking contest winner's travel expenses to compete in the Area, State and National contests. It was decided to give the winner a cash award with the instructions that they should use it as they see fit. The amount of the special award was discussed and it was decided that Kevin should be consulted as to a fair amount.

**Motion: A motion to approve giving a special award to the overall winner of the speaking contest was made by Lex Kromhout and seconded by Bob Adair. The amount of the special award will be determined at a later date. Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Chairman Gunter read the proclamation for the 2007 Cooperator of the Year award and presented the plaque to Thomas Hammond of Hammond Groves. Mr. Hammond thanked the Board and left the meeting at 1:30 PM.
6. Chairman Gunter called on Brenda for a brief explanation of the new format of the Annual Financial Report. She explained that the State moved to a completely digital system for submitting AFR's. It's called the LOGER system. She informed the Board that she went ahead and set up the account for the District and input all of the necessary financial data. The final step is for the Chairman and the Treasurer to either go online and approve it or sign the hard copy she provided and allow her to digitally sign it for submission to the State. The Board authorized Brenda to digitally approve the report for them and keep the signed hard copy in the files.

### **REPORTS:**

**Carol Johnson:** Carol reported that she submitted her report from her staff meeting. She also passed out a map of TMDLs from DEP. She stated that her group is just about finished with all BMP manuals. She is starting the verification phase, sending out surveys and doing a few site visits. Carol stated that there would be a possibility of funding for cost sharing grants in July of 2008.



## Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

Chairman Gunter asked Carol to please keep the Board informed of any funding that may come available. Carol informed the Board that this District has received funding for the last five or six years and there is still no TMDL set. When the TMDL is set next year this District will become a priority area for her agency to put funding back in for BMP implementation. She suggested that this Board write a letter in March to Rich Budell stating that the District is in the TMDL phase. Brenda was asked to remind the Board in March.

**Janet Bargar:** Janet announced that Christine Kelly is holding a Florida Grades and Standards Class for nursery crops in 2008. Pesticide training will also be given throughout the year. There is will be a Core class given on January 24, 2008.

**Michael Bush:** Absent.

**Elwood Holzworth:** Elwood reported that he and the rest of the NRCS staff are very busy with EQIP. The contracts have to be complete by January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chairman Gunter:** David reported that he wrote a letter to St. John's concerning the Sandco sand mine who has applied for a CUP permit. His concerns were that there is a substantial clay layer in the area that is to be mined. This clay will be in the water discharged into the canals and eventually end up in the Lagoon. Increased turbidity in the Lagoon will kill off the sea grasses. His letter asked St. John's to look more seriously at a zero discharge mine. The other mine permit, the Cairn mine, Mr. Gunter forwarded to Bob Ulevich for comments. A letter regarding that mine will be done once Bob's comments are received. A lengthy discussion on sand mining followed.

Vice Chairman Adair expressed concern over the increased turbidity in the Lagoon from the discharge coming from these sand mines. He proposed to the Board that they make a recommendation to the County that only zero discharge mining operations be permitted in Indian River County. Lex added that he would like to see the Board go even further in support of this and pass some kind of policy.

**Motion: A motion to send a letter to the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners recommending that only zero discharge sand mining operations be permitted in Indian River County was made by Marvin Carter and seconded by Lex Kromhout. Motion carried unanimously.**

It was suggested that the letter be finished and distributed by Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion: A motion to approve the letter sent to the St. Johns River Water Management District, written on November 29, 2007 by Chairman Gunter regarding the Sandco sand mine was made by Lex Kromhout and seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried unanimously.**



## Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

In order to keep all Board members informed of situations regarding permit requests with SJRWMD, Mr. Gunter advised Brenda to sign up for e permitting notifications via SJRWMD's website. Attorney Fell offered instructions for signing up.

Janet Bargar left the meeting at 2:00 PM.

A discussion on co-mingling of aquifers ensued. It was determined that sand-mining operations will not cause this to happen.

Mike Ziegler was recognized by Chairman Gunter to speak. Mr. Ziegler stated that he wanted to make a couple of recommendations. First, he recommended that every commissioner and member of the Planning and Zoning Commission receive a copy of the Indian River County Soil Survey. He stated that on page 5 of the survey, there is an excellent cross section of the County that might help them with what is being asked of them by the mining outfits. Secondly, he gave the Board a copy of the newspaper editorial from Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, which doesn't accurately depict the local water situation. He fears that we will end up like the agriculture producers overseas who are now drawing their ground water down at a rate of 10 feet a year, pumping from a thousand feet deep in China. In India the numbers are 20 feet a year from three thousand feet deep. He stated that he would like to see someone from this Board, representing Indian River County, attend the Sustainable Water Resources, Florida Global Challenges Solutions Symposium being put on by the UF Water Institute in February.

Mr. Ziegler also stated that he feels that it is extremely important that the IR SWCD participate in the State technical committee meetings in Gainesville with the NRCS. He continued by saying that as budgets get tight, you have to have a voice in order to receive any funding in their allocations. These meetings are quarterly. He also suggested that someone attend the farewell meeting, December 20<sup>th</sup>, in Gainesville, for Niles Glasgow who recently resigned as Florida's State Conservationist.

**Mark Pomar:** Mark stated that he wanted everyone to know that the past fifteen months has been a great tour for him. He said it's been very rewarding; it was an extreme pleasure to work with everyone. The Board wished Mark well in his new endeavor.

**Brenda Davis:** Brenda asked the Board to approve a project she is interested in joining on behalf of the District, called Fourth Grade Foresters of Florida. The project is working to revitalize the observation of Florida's Arbor Day. Each 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at the selected school(s) will be given an individually packaged evergreen tree that will grow in Florida for them to take home, plant and care for. Workers with disabilities package every tree. The cost of the trees is \$1.59 per tree and Mark has secured sponsorship from Sun Ag. The Board thought it was a great idea. Marvin suggested that a thank you letter be sent to Sun Ag.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM. Next meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



**Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District**

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David Gunter

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Date

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Alexander Kromhout

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date