



Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District

Monthly Meeting – December 14, 2009

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

Staff in attendance: Brenda Davis, Staff Assistant II, IRSWCD
Elwood Holzworth, Soil Conservation Technician, USDA/NRCS
Kay Nickel, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS

Guests in Attendance: Mike Ziegler
Wesley Davis, IRC Commissioner

OLD BUSINESS

1. The IRSWCD meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Chairman Gunter.
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. There were no changes requested to the November 9, 2009 meeting minutes.

Motion: A motion to accept the November meeting minutes was made by Marvin Carter and seconded by Bobby Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer Lex Kromhout gave the financial report for the months of October and November.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

5. Chairman Gunter asked for comments on the Ag. Forum. Marvin Carter stated that the forum was put together very well and that a lot of work went into organizing it. He wished that there was more participation from the audience and maybe if a follow up survey was sent out, some people may be more comfortable voicing their opinions. Bobby Lindsey felt that the forum stimulated some thought processes among those who may not have been aware of the issues and concerns that the forum focused on. Vice Chairman Adair. Chairman Gunter stated that Bob and Brenda did a great job.



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Vice Chairman Adair asked for Board approval to send out a survey with about 15 questions to the attendees. The questions would ask how they liked the forum, their opinions on the topic and the quality and relevance of the information given. The final question will ask if they are interested in attending another forum to continue the process.

**Motion: A motion to approve the follow up survey process and to upgrade the survey software was made by Bob Adair and seconded by Bobby Lindsey.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Lex Kromhout asked at what point the BCC and the Ag Advisory Committee (AAC) was going to be involved in this process. Bob replied that he is still working to find a member of the AAC to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee for the protection of agriculture and he is waiting for Commissioner Davis to get back to him on a date to hold the first meeting.

Chairman Gunter added that the SWCD is not in the business of holding forums. The District has very limited funds and simply can't afford to continue sponsoring these forums.

Commissioner Wesley Davis was seen in the hallway and invited in to the meeting at 1:25 PM.

Chairman Gunter explained to Commissioner Davis that the Board was discussing the Ag Forum that was recently held by the District. The Board would like to send out a follow up survey to the participants asking them, among other things, would they like to attend another forum to continue this process. However, the District has very limited funds, and has done what it can do and needs to pass this along to another entity before losing any momentum. Commissioner Davis began by saying that he would like to see the Ad Hoc Committee keep this process going under the auspices of the Agriculture Advisory Committee that is already in place.

A brief discussion of land use practices followed.

6. Chairman Gunter asked about the response letter received from Carlos Suarez, with NRCS regarding abandoned citrus groves. The letter stated that clearing abandoned citrus groves would not be considered by NRCS for a cost sharing practice for the upcoming year.

A brief discussion on burning citrus groves affected by greening ensued. Commissioner Davis stated that burning abandoned groves was a great alternative and the push for cost share funding should begin. Kay Nickel was asked about cost share funding available from USDA for burning groves. She replied that there is but it is only \$10 an acre. It is not worth most peoples' time to fill out all of the paperwork. She stated that she could include this in the next Local Working Group meeting and see what happens. Lex Kromhout added that the Division of Forestry would need to be involved in the burning process.



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Wesley Davis left the meeting at 2:00 PM.

A lengthy discussion on water rights and carbon sequestering crops ensued. Brenda was asked to obtain a complete copy of PepsiCo's carbon footprint from Mike Sparks at the IR Citrus League and the Scientific Certification Systems Proposed Sustainability Standards.

Mike was asked what alternative crops he found with his research in Gainesville. He replied that bamboo and kanef would be good options.

7. It was decided to table the request from NRCS regarding map units to be considered for Unique or Locally Important Farmland status until the next meeting so that Kay Nickel could give a better explanation.

REPORTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. Next meeting is January 11th, 2010.

David Gunter

Date

Alexander Kromhout

Date