

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, Florida, 32960-3388
www.ircgov.com*



Solid Waste Disposal District Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Commission Chambers

Board of Commissioners

*Chairman, Joseph E. Flescher, District 2
Vice Chairman, Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4
Commissioner Susan Adams, District 1
Commissioner Joseph H. Earman, District 3
Commissioner Laura Moss, District 5*

**Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Randi Wardlow, Deputy Clerk**

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

15.B.1. 21-0518 CCNA-2018 Work Order No. 12 to Geosyntec for One Year of Groundwater Monitoring/Reporting and Related Consulting Services at the Former South Gifford Road Landfill

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Solid Waste Disposal District Board approves and authorizes the Chairman to sign CCNA-2018 Work Order No. 12 authorizing Geosyntec to provide groundwater monitoring/reporting and related consulting services for the Former South Gifford Road Landfill in compliance with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements for a period of one year, with a not to exceed fee of \$84,339

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Geosyntec CCNA2018 WO No 12](#)

There was no discussion regarding this item.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

15.B.2. 21-0528 Amendment No. 2 to Landfill Gas Agreement with Indian River Eco District, LLC

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that its Board approve the Second Amendment to Landfill Gas Agreement with the Indian River Eco District, LLC and authorize the Chair to execute the amendment

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Request for Extension Letter by IRED](#)
[Second Amendment to Landfill Gas Agreement](#)

[Clerk's note: This item was heard following Item 15.B.3.]

Solid Waste Disposal District Director Himanshu Mehta presented the second amendment to the July 16, 2019 agreement with Indian River Eco District (IRED), wherein IRED agreed to purchase the County's landfill-generated gas for conversion to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). He informed that IRED was

requesting an extension to the commencement date due to Covid-related delays of project equipment from their European manufacturer. While in discussion with staff, IRED expressed concern regarding the recent significant reductions in the volume of landfill gas which jeopardized their RNG production. Director Mehta expressed confidence that the landfill gas levels would return to normal once the stored leachate was removed.

He continued on with details of the amended Landfill Gas Agreement, and referred to staff's memorandum dated May 11, 2021 for details regarding terms, modified milestones, incentives for expansion, maintenance and repair, payment agreements, gas flow levels and a financial analysis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

15.B.3. 21-0506 Request for Approval of a Leachate Treatment Project at the IRC Landfill

Recommended Action: Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) staff recommends that its Board approve the following: a) Direct staff to reconsider obtaining firm pricing from the Indian River Eco District, LLC for a deep well injection option for the disposal of leachate; or, b) Direct staff to finalize a contract for a leachate treatment project between Indian River County SWDD and the developers, consisting of Heartland Water Technology, Inc., Proximo Energy, and Indian River Eco District, LLC, to be approved by the SWDD Board at a future meeting; and, c) Staff recommends, if staff is not successful in negotiating a final agreement with the Developers within 60 days, that we proceed in issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a leachate treatment project.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Leachate Treatment Proposal](#)

Director of Utility Services Vincent Burke introduced the item to the Board noting that new environmental regulations would require the County to change the way it treated leachate (liquid that percolated through the landfill) from the current process of diluting it through the County's wastewater treatment facility.

Himanshu Mehta, Solid Waste Disposal District Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation which explained the environmental challenges of leachate treatment. He discussed two (2) possible long-term solutions to treating the leachate. The first was a previously-tested leachate evaporation system, created in conjunction with the Indian River Eco District (IRED) and Heartland Water Technology, which would be powered by landfill gas and natural gas. The second long-term solution involved converting IRED's deep injection wells to handle leachate; the cost and environmental feasibility of this option was still to be determined.

Director Mehta's discussion then turned to the short-term problem caused by having the landfill's wells filled by concentrated leachate. He explained that the full wells were preventing the collection of landfill gas which SWDD had contracted to sell to IRED. A short-term solution to de-water the wells and send the leachate to another county for disposal was also brought forth for consideration. He closed the presentation with staff's recommendations.

Under discussion, Commissioner Adams received confirmation of the critical nature of the problem, and expressed distaste for deep well injection and off-site disposal. Director Burke provided additional information regarding pending legislation and the implications for leachate disposal.

Next, Alain Castro, IRED Managing Partner, presented information explaining the IRED and their business model. Upon query by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Mr. Castro explained that the liquid leachate was preventing landfill gas from forming, and he projected it would take three (3) months to dewater the wells and restore gas production. Mr. Earl Jones, CEO of Heartland, described the environmental challenges of disposing of "forever chemicals" called PFAS, and discussed his company's qualifications to construct a leachate evaporation system which would work in conjunction with IRED's landfill gas management system.

Commissioner Adams spoke in favor of creating a long term leachate evaporation system with IRED and Heartland, as well as the short-term solution of removing and disposing of the existing leachate at an off-site location. Vice Chairman O'Bryan received confirmation of a six-month timeline to create the leachate evaporation system. Chairman Flescher expressed support for an in-house, long-term solution to leachate processing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to direct staff to: 1) pursue contract negotiations with Indian River Eco District and Heartland Water Technology for a long-term leachate treatment project, with a final agreement to be brought back before the Board for approval within 60 days; and 2) pursue a short-term solution for leachate disposal with an Industrial Wastewater Treatment facility in Tampa, Florida. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

15.B.4. 21-0529

CCNA-2018 Work Order No. 11 to Geosyntec - Engineering and Permitting Services for Leachate Treatment Project

Recommended Action: Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) staff recommends that its Board approve the following: a) Conditionally approve CCNA-2018, amended and extended in 2021, Work Order No. 11 with Geosyntec for \$64,891.96 to provide engineering and permitting services related to the leachate treatment project.

But direct staff to hold off on issuing a notice to proceed until the Board authorizes a contract with the Indian River Eco District, LLC, for the leachate treatment process; and, b) Authorize the Chairman to execute the same, as presented

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[CCNA-2018 Work Order No 11 - Geosyntec](#)

There was no discussion regarding this item.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

15.B.5. 21-0530

CCNA-2018 Work Order No. 42 to Kimley-Horn and Associates - Centrate to Leachate Tank Conversion

Recommended Action: Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) staff recommends that its Board approve the following: a) Conditionally approve CCNA-2018, amended and extended in 2021, Work Order No. 42 with Kimley-Horn for \$50,943 to provide engineering and permitting services related to the Centrate to Leachate Tank Conversion Project. But direct staff to hold off on issuing a notice to proceed until the Board authorizes a contract with the Indian River Eco District, LLC, for the leachate treatment process; and, b) Authorize the Chairman to execute the same, as presented

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[CCNA-2018 Work Order No 42 - Kimley-Horn](#)

There was no discussion regarding this item.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss