



# Indian River County, Florida

Indian River County  
Administration Complex  
1801 27th Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960  
[indianriver.gov](http://indianriver.gov)

## Draft Meeting Minutes

### Board of County Commissioners

*Joseph Flescher, District 2, Chairman*

*Deryl Loar, District 4, Vice Chairman*

*Susan Adams, District 1*

*Joseph H. Earman, District 3*

*Laura Moss, District 5*

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney

Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

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Tuesday, November 19, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

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#### 15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

##### B. Solid Waste Disposal District

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.

**15.B.1.** Debris Removal - Hurricane Milton

Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) Managing Director Himanshu Mehta requested the Board's direction in resolving a situation which arose regarding debris collection in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. He informed that the County's debris contractor, Ceres Environmental (Ceres), had completed half of the debris removal but faced delays as subcontractors left to work for higher Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) rates; the County paid \$9.81 per cubic yard versus FDOT's \$14.98 per cubic yard.

Mr. Mehta advised that Ceres could finish the job at the contracted rate, but it would extend the timeline to late December. He offered three options for the Board's consideration: 1. Continue at the current rates and accept the revised timing; 2. Increase the rate to match FDOT's at a cost of \$131,591 with the same October completion date. The Board was advised that FEMA may not reimburse the County for this expense.; 3. Issue a separate emergency purchase order to Ceres in the amount of \$131,591 using emergency general funds to incentivize on-time debris collection; this option was not eligible for reimbursement.

Mr. Mehta stated neighboring counties faced similar dilemmas, and most paid additional incentives to get the debris cleared in a timely fashion. The Board was wary of setting precedent by changing contracted rates midway through the job, and expressed they felt they were being placed in a difficult situation. Ultimately, the Board preferred not to delay debris removal in the public's interest, and supported staff's recommendation of Option 3.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve Option 3 of staff's recommendation and issue an emergency purchase order in the amount of \$131,591 to Ceres Environmental. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss