

## **Board Meeting Minutes –Approved**

Indian River Mosquito Control District  
September 8, 2026 @ 9:00 am

The Indian River Mosquito Control District Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on September 8, 2026, at the District Office.

**Present:** Janice Broda (Chair), Anna Kirkland (Vice Chair) and Thomas Lowther (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Visitors:** Craig MacCoy

**Staff:** Isik Unlu (Executive Director), Claudia Alvarado (CFO), Kevin Kinney (Director of IT and Maintenance), and Johanna Avril (Community Relations Director)

**Legal Counsel:** Paul Amos (Lowndes Law)

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Broda called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of the Agenda**  
Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**  
Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve August 11, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.
- V. **Financial Report (Attachment B)**  
Commissioner Lowther made the motion to accept and file the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2026 for audit. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.
- VI. **Public Comment - None**
- VII. **Old Business**
  - A. **Executive Director Contract – Introductory Period**  
Commissioner Broda indicated that the Executive Director's contract includes a 90-day introductory period with an option to extend it. Her recommendation was not to extend the introductory period since her performance surpassed expectations. She has increased the efficiency of the science department, made changes so operational decisions are science-based, addressed ongoing HR problems, refocused efforts to better control salt marsh mosquitos, increased transparency by improving Director's Reports and communications with the Board, enlisted the assistance of the USDA scientists to get resistance testing at no financial cost, wrote a contract using outside funds to use mosquito high tech, and has begun to develop a framework in grant funding to support operational improvements. Legal counsel confirmed that the 90 days have expired and no formal motion is needed.
  - B. **Board Book Attachments**  
Commissioner Broda would like the board books available online along with agendas to diminish public record requests and lead to meaningful public comments by staying informed. Attorney Amos recommends the district follow current ADA requirements while being cautious with PowerPoint presentations. He suggested adding a statement instructing the public how to obtain them. Board members agreed to add board book attachments

online, starting with this meeting, until the maximum ADA services pages are met. Attorney Amos stated that no motion is needed unless budget changes are necessary.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Resolution No. 2006-004 – John’s Island/Lost Tree Project (Attachment C)**

Isik is seeking approval of Resolution No. 2006-004 that authorizes the Executive Director to execute dedication documents, as well as documents necessary to receive any easements associated with the John’s Island/Lost Tree Project. The Board had no objection following historical practice and relationship with the Land Trust and Lost Tree.

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2006-004. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

**B. External Advisory Resources (Attachment D)**

Isik provided resumes for Doug Carlson, Dr. Ilia Rochlin, Dr. Jonathan F. Day, Dr. Roxanne Connelly, and Dr. Randy Gaugler who will be good candidates to help the district move forward benefiting immensely from their experience. Dr. Day and Dr. Gaugler will form an honorary scientific advisory board at no cost to the district. The Board previously approved Mark Lathem as an aerial consultant. Dr. Rochlin has in-depth knowledge in medical entomology, including ticks, mosquitoes, and data analysis. His services will only be used through grants with no burden to the taxpayers. He will assist us in obtaining outside funding and mentoring the District’s science team. Dr. Connelly currently writes grants for American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and will assist Brandon, Ecologist, but will not be a burden to the budget since her hours will be charged to grants. Mr. Carlson will be employed by the district for a period of three months with the option to extend another three months. He will monitor capital improvements such as the Sandpoint Project, mentor Brandon and Jules, and develop a maintenance plan for impoundments.

Commissioner Lowther questioned whether the advisory board meets once a month or as needed basis. Initially the advisory board will meet with Isik monthly and then on an as needed basis. Attorney Amos stated that the advisory board will not trigger Sunshine Laws since they are not decision makers or have Board authority.

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the hiring of Doug Carlson as part-time Coastal Impoundment Advisor. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

**C. FY 2026-2027 Section 125 Plan (Attachment E)**

Claudia presented the FY 2026-2027 Section 125 Plan to formalize the health insurance benefit plans approved at the last board meeting.

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Section 125 Plan as presented by staff. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.**

**D. FY 2026-2027 FMIT Insurance Renewal (Attachment F)**

Claudia presented the FY 2026-2027 FMIT insurance renewal with an increase of 11.34% and premium total of \$166,352. The premium cover General Liability, Automobile, Property, and Worker's Comp insurance. Commissioner Broda questioned if pollution insurance was included in the premium. Claudia explained that the pollution policy is a separate policy that came in with no change in premium cost.

**Commissioner Kirkland made the motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 FMIT insurance renewal as presented by staff. Commissioner Lowther seconded. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.**

**E. Classification & Compensation Study Report (Attachment G)**

Johanna provided the Classification and Compensation Study Report that has budget implications that were incorporated for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. A meeting with the vendor is needed to review the study and provide final deliverables. Isik indicated that the District received a positive report with no red flags. Improvements needed are not major impacts to the budget. Commissioner Broda pointed out that numbers from Indian River County, City of Vero Beach, City of Sebastian, St. Lucie County, City of Ft. Pierce, City of Port St. Lucie, Martin County, Brevard County, St. Lucie County Mosquito Control, and Brevard Mosquito Control were not included in the Study. These are important numbers that should have been pursued more aggressively. The vendor for the most part used public information. The timing of the report was during transition and some of the items regarding job descriptions have been addressed with reorganization.

**F. FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget Selection (Attachment H)**

Claudia provided an overview of changes since the July Preliminary Budget. After reviewing the three budget options; Staff recommends Option 1 with milage rate of 0.2611 and a total budget of approximately \$13.7 million. It maintains the same operating budget as Option 2 but provides a stronger reserve position of approximately \$3 million. The additional reserve capacity is important because of the financial uncertainty associated with Amendment 3. It allows the District to address capital investment that has been deferred over the years. Aging facilities, equipment, and infrastructure will require significant investment, and delaying further could lead to higher costs and operational risks in the future. The Board agreed that Amendment 3 is an extreme uncertainty. Commissioner Broda does not believe that a large Cash Forward Reserve is needed if over \$500K in Contingency Funds are assigned and would consider Option 1 if a hybrid option for reserves was considered. She suggested lowering Cash Forward Reserve to cover one month's worth of operating expenditure, instead of 1.25 months, and assigning the difference to Capital Reserve. Commissioner Lowther indicated that \$9.30 (increase) will probably not upset the taxpayer, especially if Amendment 3 passes and they receive \$150K exemption in the first year and \$250K the second year. He would much rather be safe on this budget and come back next year knowing what happened with Amendment 3. Commissioner Lowther indicated that there are opportunities to Co-Op with Indian River County Sheriff and Cathco to save taxpayer money in the future. He is a strong advocate of going strong this year and next year bounce off the unknown. Discussion ensued

on future Co-Ops. The Board agreed to move forward with Commissioner Broda's suggestion.

**Commissioner Lowther made a motion to lower Cash Forward Reserve to one month's worth of operating expense and move the difference to Capital Reserve. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

**IX. Director's Report**

A copy of the Board Report and the operational data spreadsheet were provided to each Commissioner. Isik provided a brief overview of the monthly report. The highest amount of rain was reported during the month of August since the month of May. Teams are responding everywhere. Aerial applications and catch basin treatments were conducted. Service requests are lower than last year's. Landing rates have improved compared to last month. Ground aduaticiding acres are below the five-year average, although aerial treatments are higher. Five areal missions were conducted, totaling 3,929 acres, using 47,200 lbs. of material throughout the coastal areas. We were below the 2024-2025 August total, but already above the five-year average and currently above the five-year high. The UAS system continued to have minor issues, and the Frontier Precision rep assisted the aerial team with solutions for those issues. The aerial team will continue to ensure the system is back in working order. Permanent control will be fully staffed soon. The Sebastian Inlet pump started making noise and was brought in for repairs. A portable pump was stationed at the Inlet to make sure that desired water levels continue to be maintained. The second water exchange project was performed. Over the first four months the positive trend for the sites (Dissolved Oxygen) DO was overwhelmingly positive, unfortunately this last testing has shown the DO has returned to a number below 1mg/L.

Johanna presented the Community Relations update indicating that events are slowing down. Social media followers and interactions have increased and supplied a list of top audience areas in the county. The team met with Pelican Island Classical Magnet School to discuss next year's educational program.

Human Resources filled the Impoundment Operator position and posted the UAS/Vector Ecologist position. A final draft of the compensation study and a meeting to review results are still needed. The HR company JER was selected, and staff are currently awaiting a kickoff meeting.

Isik provided a State and local arbovirus update as noted on the report.

**X. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Lowther – Requested IT research the app that the County uses as a hearing solution and perhaps implement it in the Board room. Invited Isik to join the Rotary Club.

Commissioner Kirkland – Thanked Daniel for his participation in Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Aerial event.

Commissioner Broda – Very thankful of the landing rate counts report.

**XI. Upcoming Meetings**

- Tentative Budget Hearing –September 17, 2026 at 5:01 pm
- Final Budget & TRIM Hearing –September 29, 2026 at 5:01 pm
- Regular Board Meeting – October 13, 2026 at 9 am
- FMCA Annual Meeting – Ponte Verde Beach – November 9-12, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting – November 17, 2026 at 9 am

**XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Lowther made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

