



Statement of Function

The Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District (IRSWCD) was organized for the purpose of developing a program of management and conservation of the soil, water and related natural resources of the County, and to promote and encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation practices on privately owned land. A locally elected board of non-salaried public officials governs the District. The Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) provides office space, some equipment, supplies, and salary for a Staff Assistant II. The District works in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS).

2009/2010 Accomplishments

- Continued to try to establish and put into place a full-time Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) for the County and District. Discussed, created and sent a proposal for an MIL to County Commissioners after discussion on new St. Johns mandate for enforcing irrigation rules.
- Successfully planned, organized and hosted Indian River County's first Agriculture Forum at the Richardson Center at Indian River State College. Approximately 100 residents, public officials, landowners, and elected officials attended the event. Follow up surveys and analyses were completed. The Forum produced promising strategies for the agricultural future of Indian River County to be explored at a second forum.
- Continued working with and through all Local, State and Federal Agencies to help our County landowners become more preservation and conservation conscious of all of our natural resources.
- District Staff continued to increase natural resource conservation and awareness by providing educational information and conducting the following educational youth competitions: public speaking contest, poster contest, and poetry contest. Awarded \$1,275.00 in prize money to high school and middle school students who participated in and placed in the annual public speaking contest. This year's poster and poetry contests had very respectable numbers of entries.
- Staff participated in Agriculture Literacy Week, Kids Daze at the Fair, and had a booth at the Annual Citrus Show.
- District Staff successfully recruited Storm Grove Middle School to participate in the Envirothon. Staff also participated in the planning of and as a soil station monitor in the 2010 Regional Indian River Lagoon Envirothon.
- District Staff successfully completed the second year of a tree sale. Seven hundred bald cypress trees were sold to residents of Indian River County. This far exceeds the first year which had sales of seventy trees.
- Successfully completed the second year of the Arbor Day free tree planting project. Made a new partnership in the community with Best Buy who helped with the planting. This event was picked up by a national trade magazine called, "Forestry Notes" and published in the July issue.
- Continually made changes and additions to the District's website to keep information current.
- Created a display for setup at the IRC Fair along with many different free informational items.
- Provided all necessary support to the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and USDA/NRCS Staff.
- Continued to try to reinstate FDACS Best Management Practices funding support to our County for our citrus growers and farm and ranch owners.
- Tried to establish consistent support for funding from SJRWMD to include but not limited to BMP



Funding and IR Lagoon Snook Tag Projects.

- Presented the Cooperator of the Year award to Brian and Valerie Quant of White Rabbit Acres at a meeting of the County Commission.
- Staff attended the Annual Diversity Day Awards in Royal Palm Beach and accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from USDA/NRCS for outstanding support of NRCS operations and Assistance to Landowners of Indian River County.
- Continued with press release program on Backyard Conservation and processed approximately 25 requests for Backyard Conservation Booklets and Tip Sheets.
- Began work on grant application for the possible addition of a soil kiosk in the City of Fellsmere's Greenway Plan.
- District Staff was elected to the position of Secretary for the Board of Directors of the IR Lagoon Envirothon and was chosen as the County Coordinator for Indian River County.
- The winner of the K-1st grade poster contest category also won first place at the State contest. Her poster will represent the state of Florida in the National contest. The District also had a third place winner at the State contest.

2010/2011 Goals and Objectives

- Continue all education and outreach programs with local schools and organizations.
- Continue and increase participation in the IR Lagoon Envirothon. Successfully carry out term as Secretary on the Board of Directors and as County Coordinator.
- Successfully complete year #3 of the Arbor Day free tree planting event and Annual Tree Sale.
- Reinstate and increase Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS) Best Management Practices funding support to the County for our citrus growers and ranch and farm owners.
- Establish consistent support for funding from St. Johns River Water Management District to include but not limited to BMP Funding and Indian River Lagoon Snook Tag Projects.
- Initiate for the County, FDACS Best Management Practices Funding support for: Nursery BMPs, Cow/calf BMPs, and Vegetable and Agronomic Crops BMPs.
- Continue to try to establish and put into place a full-time Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) for the County and District.
- Work with and through all Local, State and Federal Agencies, to help our County landowners become more preservation and conservation conscious of all of our natural resources.
- Continue work on website with information updates, newsletters, press releases, new programs and educational contests and resources.
- Continue to provide all necessary support to the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and USDA/NRCS Staff.
- Continue to work on soil kiosk for Fellsmere Greenway Project, should we win grant.
- Continue to form partnerships throughout the community to reach more of the public with conservation awareness.
- Finish the press release program on Backyard Conservation.

Performance Measures

Performance Indicator	Actual FY	Projected
-----------------------	-----------	-----------



	2009/2010	2010/2011
Customers (Conservation Education)	4690	4700
Conservation Cost Share Contracts	0	0
Inventory and Evaluations:		
Pond Permits/Design/Mgmt.	8	8
Other, brief contacts, office visits, etc.	2345	2350