

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

10th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 17th, 2017
MINUTES

The Tenth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday October 17th, 2017 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of alliance Lead by Supervisor Dockery**

Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS
Matt Vanzant - Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

Brett Upthagrove Chairman
Dr. Sharon Kay Masters Vice-Chair
Brian Dockery Treasurer
Mike Darrow Secretary

III. Approval of the last meeting 9/19/17 minutes.

Electronic Minutes were available at this meeting and sent out prior to the meeting.
Motion to accept minutes; Approved 4- 0.

IV. NRCS Agreement discussion:

Mutual cooperative agreement – **No update** on the final NRCS / PCSWCD agreement to be checked on by District Conservationist, Mr. Sheehan. He is still waiting on paperwork back from the home office. Date unknown for final agreement to be returned.

V. NRCS Conservation report:

Mr. Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report.

A local work group met on 10/3 and natural resources concerns were identified for the area. This found information was sent to the state technical review committee for ranking criteria for next year's 2018 EQIP.

Mr. Sheehan stated all fund for FY 2017 are obligated with 37 EQIP contracts for funding to Polk County landowners for conservation projects thru USDA / NRCS approx. \$1.4 million dollar in the county. Applications for 2018 NRCS EQIP funding programs are due in November 17th 2017. Contact Ed at his office for more details. Some 40 applications have already been submitted.

There will be a USDA disaster recovery workshop on 10/26/17 at the Lake Alfred Citrus Research and Education Center. A presentation by NRCS and Farm Service Agency at 4 pm will be given. Thank you, Ed.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$12,529.32. A report was handed out and approved at the meeting. **A Motion was approved 4-0 except the financial report.** Treasurer Dockery also brought forward billing statement from AFCD for dues for 2017. A motion was approved **A Motion was approved 4-0 to approve expense for dues at \$350.00.**

VII. AFCD - PCSWCD Website Update:

Vice- Chair Masters stated the web site is online currently thru the AFCD site; <https://polksoilandwater.org/> Supervisor Masters will be working with AFCD on some technical aspects and the site needs to be edited for additions. She will be contacting them for assistance. We are still in need of editing for meeting dates on the website.

VIII. State Land judging contest.

Chairman Upthagrove and Supervisor Dockery discussed the next year land judging events and all needed to be involved. The two have complete their meeting With Ms. Betty Jo Thompkins. They briefly discussed sponsorship and past methods used by Betty Jo Thompkins of the HCSWCD and their ideas for the future. A discussion ensued on funding plans. More information to come on this.

IX. FDACS Report:

No Report this month.

X. SWFMWD – Farms Program Report:

Mr. Matt Vanzant - gave a brief report of the FARMS program and projects.

Most project are for mini farms and large farming operations. The goal is water quality and protect of aquafer and surface water levels and flows. Roughly 6 million dollar budget for the 16 county area of SWFMWD for Farms. Mini farm program is the best for small Ag operations with \$100,000 available next year. This \$8000 per land owner, goes to projects such as Soil moisture monitoring and automation..... Thank you, Matt.

XI. Funding for 2017-18: PCSWCD thru FDACS

Supervisor Dockery discussed Ag water policy FDACS funding status update. He updated us with a discussion and a meeting is going to take place soon with the Deputy Polk County Manager. These talks for Polk County working together with PCSWCD for an employee work together in Ag conservation and best management practices.

XII. New Business:

B.S. Ranch and Farm – Supervisor Master’s attended a local community meeting on issues and concern from citizens near the ranch. She attended the meeting to hear the issues from the community. She gave a summary of odor problems. She was glad to attend the meeting and found it educational.

XIII. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 11/22/17 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl. at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Action items:

1. Future presentations by district conservationist on each program offered
2. Develop a conservation district plan with goals and objectives for future. .
3. Look for grants and funding opportunities.
4. Partner with other agencies to move conservation projects to Polk County.
5. Employee funding decisions or partnerships.
6. Work to hoist a successful State land Judging contest in 2018. (FFA and 4H)
7. Identify projects to partner with the committee for conservation projects.

- Community gardens
- Rain Gardens!
- Urban forest grants
- Cost share projects
- Community education
- Speech contest
- Envirothon
- Land Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Youth education projects
- Grants

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Darrow