

# Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

## 11<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2017  
MINUTES

The Eleventh meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, FL.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of alliance Lead by Supervisor Dockery**

### Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS

### PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

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

### III. Approval of the last meeting 10/17/17 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.

Ed revealed he has 60 application's for next year's 2018 EQIP. He is working and reviewing them for funding in Polk County. 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. He is working to set up this year's local land judging contest for 2018.

Chairman Brett Upthagrove asked about a letter being sent to Mr. Moore for state waterway clearing assistance from the hurricane in some creeks going into Lake Gibson. The Board authorized Brett to write a letter to be reviewed before submittal.

Thank you, Ed for an excellent job.

#### **VI. Treasures Report:**

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$12,179.32. A report was handed out and approved at the meeting. **A Motion was approved 4-0 except the financial report.**

Employee assistance for FDACS- Supervisor Dockery has been working with Polk County for details and an agreement to hire an employee. We will have to work out issues the next few month's a head.

#### **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 stated there are issues with the website that need to be address be AFCD or the web folks.

Supervisor Garrison was going to contact AFCD for assistance on what could be done next to make our website better.

Chairman Upthagrove mentioned he attained a meeting for AFCD and ty were asking for another \$280.0 to repair and add things to the website. Supervisor Darrow sent AFCD the required documents and meeting minutes for 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. They briefly discussed sponsorship and past methods needed for the event and some of their ideas for the future. A discussion ensued on funding plans. The discussions of banners and sponsors was discussed as well.

#### **IX. FDACS Report:**

**No Report this month.**

#### **X. SWFWMD – Farms Program Report:**

**No Report this month.**

## **XII. New Business:**

**Tree planting** – Supervisor Garrison –discussed he had purchased trees to be planted in areas of the county. He was looking for volunteers and groups to be involved in the planting of pine and cypress trees. Plant of the trees is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Winter Haven and Dundee.

## **XIII. The Next meeting:**

The Next meeting is scheduled for 12/19/17 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl. at 6:00 pm.

### **The meeting adjourned at 7:15 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