

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

9th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
MINUTES

The ninth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday September 19th, 2017 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of alliance Lead by Supervisor Dockery**

Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS
Matt Warren - Environmental Manager, Ag Water Policy, FDACS
Matt Vanzant - Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

Brett Upthagrove Chairman
Brian Dockery Treasurer
Mike Darrow Secretary

- III. **Approval of the last meeting 8/15/17 minutes. Tabled until next meeting.**
Electronic Minutes were not available again at this meeting.

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:

Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report.

An Ag workshop will was rescheduled to 10/3/17 due to the Hurricane. Funding is available for storm damage that impact state navigable waters. Florida Forestry Services is working on a management pla, looking for input. He stated they are still working on over 20 contracts for funding to Polk county landowners for conservation projects thru USDA / NRCS approx. \$890,000. He and his staff have gotten 17contracts signed and they are working on the rest.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$12,708.23. A report was handed out and approved at the meeting. As a reminder, Treasurer Dockery has filed this year's financial report to AFCD before deadline in June keeping us in compliance... **A Motion was approved 3-0 to approve expense listed in the financial report.**

VII. AFCD - PCSWCD Website Update:

Vice- chair Masters could not be in attendance, the web site is online currently thru the AFCD site; <https://polksoilandwater.org/> They used some of the information to add to the website. They are still working on it and the site needs to be editing for additions. 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. They briefly discussed sponsorship and past methods used by Betty Jo Thompkins of the HCSWCD. The next committee meeting is going to be scheduled for 9/26/17 in Plant City at the HCSWCD for planning. More information to come on this.

IX. FDACS Report:

Mr. Matt Warren spoke about projects going on in the area. Water basin planning and priority funding is on BMP and Springhead protect plans.

Mr. Warren spoke on the Impacts from Hurricane Irma offering help to Farm and especially dairy farms in power outages tree damage or flooding issue. He talked about FEMA assistance for farms with crop or plant damage. He worked assisting farms and accessing damage to farms. Corp insurance is needed for most assistance from FMEA.

Chairman Upthagraove Talked about the need for the District to develop contact help for future storm events impacting agriculture. Supervisor Darrow would try to pull together a list of contact for area framers in the future.

X. SWFWMD – 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.

XI. Funding for 2017-18: PCSWCD thru FDACS

Supervisor Dockery discussed Ag water policy FDACS funding status. He updated discussion a funding opportunity for PCSWCD about funding an employee to work for PCSWCD and doing Ag conservation work by goals set by FDACS. The District needs to find a partner or self-employ the funded employee. The PCSWCD would also get 5% overhead funding for the contract. Talks are still on going on this funding issue.

XII. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 10/17/17 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl. at 6:00 pm.

XIII. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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