

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

13th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 16th 2018

The thirteenth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday January 16th, 2018 at the FREDs market room in Lakeland, Fl.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

II. Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS

Matt Warren - Environmental Manager, Ag Water Policy, FDACS

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 11/21/17 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. Ed said we needed the agreement in place for employee staffing

V. NRCS Conservation report:

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

Ed talked about 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 with Mr. Webb.

Ed updated about the EWP letter being to Mr. Moore for state waterway clearing assistance from the hurricane in some creeks going into Lake Gibson. There needs to in kind coop funding to move project forward from the County or another partner.

Chairman Upthagrove mentioned he attained information about a grant for funding an employee thru NRCS. Ed was going to look into it.

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. He hit a snag with Soucre2. We will have to work out issues in 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. She is not having any luck with support are being able to craft website.

Supervisor Garrison was going to contact AFCD for assistance on what could be done next to make our website better. We have not gotten an update yet.

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 in October 2017.

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:

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 new employee and working with Supervisor Dockery to get an employee on board. Cost share program and the need for an employee.

X. SWFWMD – Farms Program Report:

No Report this month.

Tree planting – Supervisor Dockery –reported the purchased trees were planted in areas of the county. He worked with Supervisor Garrison & area groups of volunteers for the planting of pine and cypress trees. Plant of the trees was done on January 12th 2018 in Winter Haven and Dundee.

XII. New Business:

XIII. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 2/20/18 at the NRSC Building, Bartow, Florida 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