

# Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

The fourteenth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at Polk State College campus in Lakeland, Fl.

**I. Call to Order:** Chairman Uthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**II. Guests in Attendance:**

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS

**PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:**

Brett Uthagrove Chairman

Brian Dockery Treasurer

Mike Darrow Secretary

**III. Approval of the last meeting 1/16/18 minutes.**

Electronic Minutes were available at this meeting and sent out prior to the meeting.

**Motion to accept minutes; Approved 3- 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. Supervisors in attendance signed a civil rights agreement and were offered training when available.

**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 on 3/6/2018.

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 Uthagrove mentioned he is working on a partnership with Ed and Polk County 90 % cost share must be completed by the end of the month.

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

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$12,128. 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:**

**No Report this month.**

#### **VIII. State Land judging contest.**

Chairman Uthagrove and Supervisor Dockery discussed the 2018 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. Looking for sponsors is the current plan. A discussion ensued on funding plans. Polk County land judging contest is 3/6/18. State contest is 3/23/18.

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

**No Report this month.**

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

**No Report this month.**

#### **XII. Employee Funding with FDACS-**

Supervisor Dockery has been in discussion with Polk County and FDAC's over an employee for the conservation board. Currently he is grasping for straws on the project with Polk telling him an employee would not work out. He will be working with Matt and Highlands County for the next step for a PCSWCD employee.

### **XIII. NACD grant for employee-**

Chairman Upthagrove applied for a grant for funding of an employee. He ask for a motion: Supervisor made a motion to have Mr. Upthagrove fill out and apply for this grant. . **A Motion was approved 3-0 for the application.**

### **XIII. New Business:**

#### **Alafia lagoon planting -**

Chairman Upthagrove is researching a project that was sent to him on an AG perineal peanut farming. He informed us he will be reviewing and meeting with folks involved it the project and report back.

#### **Meeting location -**

Meeting location was moved to Polk state Campus for the rest of 2018. The police center in Lakeland is under construction forcing the move. Chairman Brett Upthagrove sent out a Gmail on the topic to all parties. He made arrangements with the college for the year.

### **XIV. The Next meeting:**

The Next meeting is scheduled for 3/20/18 at the Polk State Lakeland Campus, Florida at 6:00 pm.

#### **The meeting adjourned at 7:25 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.
8. Develop a business plan.
  - Community gardens
  - Rain Gardens!
  - Urban forest grants
  - Cost share projects
  - Community education
  - Speech contest
  - Envirothon
  - Land Conservation
  - Water Conservation
  - Youth education projects
  - Employee funding
  - Grants

Respectfully submitted, Michael Darrow