

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

18th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 19th 2018

The eighteenth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday June 19, 2018 at Polk State College campus in Lakeland, Fl. Room LTB 1124.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Guests in Attendance:

- Daniel Lanier - Sawmill Citrus
- Drew Pitts - Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

- Brett Upthagrove Chairman
- Joe Garrison Treasurer
- Mike Darrow Secretary
- Kyle Carlton Supervisor (Via phone)

III. Approval of the last meeting 5/15/18 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 – District Conservationist, Mr. Sheehan (who was not present) Brett read a statement and informed us that no new information or progress was available.

V. NRCS Conservation report:

Conservation report - District Conservationist, Mr. Sheehan (who was not present) Brett read a statement of the Brief report. Ten EQIP applications have been approved. The remaining will be finished in the next few weeks. Brett read two conservation stewardship program applications are being evaluated. Ed asked if the board would propose some dates at the extension service for a local working group meeting. The board is considering a date August.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Garrison talked about accounts, checkbook, receipts, and banking he tabled the report until next month. Joe wanted all receipts for he could log in excel. Brett mentioned the purchase items for the new employee Drew. Brett set up a pass thru account must be set up for the purchase and payment of contract from FDACS.

Brett and Joe will meet to exchange check books, records and computer files soon.

VII. AFCD - PCSWCD Website Update:

Vice Chair Masters was not available , Supervisor Darrow reported he emailed AFCD about the website, and Ms. Charlene and Ms. Kaylee helped him out by sending passwords and information. He did review the information and trying to update the site. Needs the help of a tech person but believes he can get some stuff added. Like meeting time, minutes, and locations to the website. Hopes to get to it in the next 5 weeks.

IX. SWFWMD – Farms Program Report:

No Report this month.

IX. FDACS Report:

FDAC was not at the meeting. However, new district employee was there to fill us in PCSWCD Mr. Drew Pitts of Bartow. Drew talked about letter sent out to Ag producers on BMP's and cost share programs. He talked about the areas he would be working on and reporting to us on like weather stations, drip irrigation, Soil probe monitoring, Cost share contracts and customer service He will be working now doing the same thing for all of Polk County. Drew talked about the CRISP funding application for Citrus farms hurt by the storms, he stated 2.8 million dollars in applications so far. Recently, Drew has been in training for Beef cattle and pasture management and FDACS training.

PCSWCD employee Mr. Drew Pitts mentioned he need a new shirts. Chairman Uphagrove said he would work something out. Possible use of a debit card in the future. Also he talked his role is water conversation for Farming operations and visiting Polk Ag producers for cost share and BMP's.

X Chairman's report -

Chairman Uthagrove discussed the need to attend a meeting with FDACS contracts. He has been working with Angela with FDACS and is trying to get admin help for the district. Also mentioned the AFCD annual meeting August 23 -25 in Ocala. We will be discussing travel and who all is able to attend. Drew is going to the meeting as well. His cost are refundable by FDACS contract. For Supervisor's reimbursement of those who attend. **Motion to pay for supervisor's hotel and registration fees to attend annual meeting; Approved 4- 0.**

Brett mentioned he had an issue in purchasing the truck at Bartow Ford. FDACS paid for the truck there the coop funding.

Goals & Strategic planning- Chairman Uthagrove mentioned some our action items and goals for the board are being achieved in our early history. He looked forward to working Mr. Pitts and Mr. Warren on this joint venture. He would like to continue to mend fences with Polk County and work in whatever way to improve cooperation.

XIII. New Business:

PCSWCD Employee report-

Drew mentioned he would most likely move his office to the FDACS office in Bartow. They are helping help in transition and setting up shop.

He also had an idea for training classes to given to Polk County Ag producers on Fertilizers and soil and water conservation topics. He would be looking for opportunities on these types of activities.

XIV. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 7/17/18 at the Polk State Lakeland Campus, Florida at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 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. **Partially complete**
4. Partner with other agencies to move conservation projects to Polk County.
5. Employee funding decisions or partnerships. **Partially complete**
6. Work to hoist a successful State land Judging contest in 2018. (FFA and 4H) **Completed in March 2018.**
7. Identify projects to partner with the committee for conservation projects.

8. Develop a business plan and plans for :

- 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