

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

19th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 17th 2018

The nineteenth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday July 17, 2018 at Polk State College campus in Lakeland, Fl. Room LTB 1124.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Guests in Attendance:

Daniel Lanier - Sawmill Citrus
Drew Pitts - Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
Ondrew Hardigan
Rick Wilson
Ricky Shirah
Bill Braswell

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

Brett Upthagrove Chairman
Mike Darrow Secretary
Kyle Carlton Supervisor

III. Approval of the last meeting 6/19/18 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 his current report.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Garrison was absent so No Report.

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:

No Report this month.

IX. PCSWCD Report:

Mr. Drew Pitts of Bartow employee of the PCSWCD as its Technician, gave a brief report: New district employee filled us in PCSWCD 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.

He talked about the Crisp funding program for citrus replanting was available for those who signed up previously up to 3 million dollars. He talked about attending the Citrus growers association.

He also talked about using an office in the FDACS building on HWY 60 in Bartow. Matt was allowing him to work there. Chairmen Brett will be working on the transition if this move takes place.

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.

He also talked about some type of marketing campaign for the conservation district.

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 all supervisor's hotel and registration fees to attend annual meeting; Approved 3- 0.**

Local working Group - Chairman Uthagrove mentioned the need to set up a local working group meeting. A date of August 29 or 30th, 2018 for area producers to hear about upcoming funding opportunities.

Motion to pay for up to \$300 for costs associated (food, etc....) with the meeting to be held in Bartow. Approved 3- 0.

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, 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. He would like to also work with the SWFWMD farms program in the near future. We have been missing our representative from there.

XIII. New Business:

Introduction of Mr. Rick Wilson

Introduction of Mr. Bill Braswell-

Mr. Braswell came to the meeting to discuss water conservation projects in the county. He discuss some projects. He asked for the support of the PCSWCD district on the some Polk County water conservation issues.

1. Auburndale drainage project - a storm water drainage project needs some help with solutions and funding.
2. Peace River allocation -water request to SWFWMD for the Manasota withdrawals
3. Caskew Road Reservoir – An old water reservoir to be used a storage and surficial aquifer recharge project.

He asked for a letter to be drafted in sport of the projects for water conservation for the county. All Board members supported the ideas of these explained projects. Brett was going to put letters of support together.

Elis K Putnam Fund for the AFCD meeting –

Chairman Uptagrove discussed the need to fund and support the EKP fund. **Motion to pay for up to \$25 donation to this conservation fund. Approved 3- 0.**

Given at the meeting with FDACs meeting in August.

XIV. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 8/21/18 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. . **Partially complete.**
3. Look for grants and funding opportunities. **Partially complete**
4. Partner with other agencies to move conservation projects to Polk County. **Partially complete**
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