

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

3rd REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
MINUTES

The second meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisor was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at the Chain o Lake complex in Winter Haven.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Uphagrove called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS
Marty Friedman – Coenson and Friedman P.A.
Gerry Hartman - Hartman Consultants P.E.

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

Brett Uphagrove	Chairman
Dr. Sharon Kay Masters	Vice-Chair
Brain Dockery	Treasurer
Mike Darrow	Secretary

II. Approval of the last meeting 2/17/17 minutes. Minutes approved 4-0
Minute's was emailed to supervisors prior to meeting.

III. Utility Funding Opportunity:

Mr. Marty Friedman and Gerald Hartman gave a presentation on sponsorship of a Utility using IRS code 63.20 for non- profits. He explained that a private utility in Polk County, Gold Coast Utility in the lake wales area, was looking for a sponsorship partner. They explained using the 63.20 provision would allow a special district to act as an oversite review board, and or appoint a board for the purpose of managing the utility. In return, the special district would get a percentage fee from the bonds annually. They handled out a package for review. They stated this would have no lability or recourse on the PCSWCD. District supervisors asked for further information on this and the Gold Coast Utility and a tour of the utility to get a grasp of the project. A workshop was proposed on 4/10/17 for the tour.

Motion to set up a PCSWCD workshop at Gold Coast for a tour and further information -approved 4-0.

IV. NRCS Agreement discussion:

Mutual cooperative agreement – The agreement previously handed out was discussed. Ed Sheehan, NRCS, was sending to legal for final. Board will review and vote at a later date.

V. NRCS Conservation report:

Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report. Stated they would soon have this year's funding from USDA for area projects.

VI. Fracking ban support discussion:

Chairman Upthagrove discussed plans for the senate bill to ban gas and oil hydraulic fracking in the State of Florida. He stated he would like to support this efforts with a proclamation. Attached is the proposed proclamation discussed. **Motion to do a proclamation on behalf of the district supporting SB 442 and HB 19 fracking ban. Approved 4- 0.**

VII. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state and anticipation forward for receiving an unclaimed funds check. It is expected to be available for despot in one to two months.

AFCD Annual Billing Statement – Was discussed currently no funds exist.

VIII. Earth Day Discussion:

Vice Chair Masters discussed Earth Day at Florida Southern on 4/22/17 from 11 to 3pm. She thought this would be good public outreach and suggested each member attend and do a table top lesson / experiment. The Vice Chair will get more information and details on this event. Chairman Upthagrove stated we need to get a banner and swag to hand out at the event. Supervisor Dockery mentioned Colt Creek Park as a possible opportunity for the same type of thing.

IX. AFCD Website Update:

Vice- chair Masters has contacted AFCD and is collecting information from them to help do a website. She will work with Chairman Upthagrove on needed data for development by AFCD.

X. Open Floor Discussion items: none

XI. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 4/18/17 at the Chain O Lakes complex Winter Haven at 6:00 pm.

XI. The Meeting adjourned at 8:26 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. Develop a website with the help of AFCD.
4. Write a letter Mission Statement for PCSWCD.
5. Look for grants and funding opportunities.
6. Identify projects to partner with the committee for conservation projects.

- Community gardens
- Urban forest grants
- Cost share projects
- Community education
- Speech contest
- Envirothon
- Land Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Youth education projects
- Grants

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Darrow