

# Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
MINUTES

The fourth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisor was held on Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Chain o Lake complex in Winter Haven.

**I. Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove 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.
Rick Danzler -	Attorney
Kim Ford -	RE & A Engineering P.E.
Kim O’Conner	Hillsborough County SWCD

### PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

Brett Upthagrove	Chairman
Dr. Sharon Kay Masters	Vice-Chair
Brian Dockery	Treasurer
Mike Darrow	Secretary

**II. Approval of the last meeting 3/21/17 minutes. Minutes approved 4-0**  
Minute’s was emailed to supervisors prior to meeting.

### III. Utility Funding Opportunity:

Mr. Gerald Hartman gave a tour of the Gold Coast Utility Company in Nalcrest Florida on 4/10/17. A discussion of the events and the sponsorship of a Utility using IRS code 63.20 for non- profits. Supervisor Darrow, asked if there was any why to get an option weather this was a legal option for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts under FS 582. Attorney Danzler stated he would write the Attorney General in Tallahassee for an option on the application to special districts for no cost. A motion was Approved 4-0 for him to do so. Writing a statement about an option from the State of Florida.

**Motion to for Mr. Danzler to send a letter of opinion to AG Bondi for this matter - approved 4-0.**

#### **IV. NRCS Agreement discussion:**

*Mutual cooperative agreement* – The agreement previously handed out was discussed. Ed Sheehan, NCRS, was sending to legal for final. This status is the same as last month. Board will review and vote at a later date.

#### **V. NRCS Conservation report:**

Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report. He stated they have received 20 contracts for funding to Polk county landowners for conservation projects thru USDA / NRCS. They will start the work to get contracts signed and projects started.

He talked about the old display board we had at the office for district usage.

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

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state and check just received of unclaimed funds. Treasurer Dockery is now working on getting checking for the account he set up. It was discussed about the use of a debit card and petty cash fund. A limit was discussed and approved for spending prior to board meeting for incidental business purchases before board approval. **Motion for a limit of spending per transaction at \$100 or less prior to approval of the board meeting for such spending. Approved – 4-0**

*AFCD Annual Billing Statement* – AFCD has sent a new state since funding is now available. Chairman Uthagrove was going to clarifier billing with AFCD and report back next meeting for payment.

*Printing of logo and letterhead*- discussion of this for printed materials at a cost of \$300. It was discussed and decided to forgo printing option.

#### **VII. Earth Day Discussion:**

Vice Chair Masters discussed Earth Day at Florida Southern on 4/22/17 from 11 to 3pm. She has decided to withdraw the request to participate in the event. **Motion passed 4-0 for withdrawal.**

#### **VIII. AFCD Website Update:**

Vice- chair Masters has contacted AFCD and is collecting information from them to help do a website. She will be sending out information she needs for this project. This is for needed data for the website development by AFCD.

## **IX. Speech Contest and Land judging contest.**

Chairmen Upthagrove discussed the past speech contest and land judging events he was involved in. Both were completed for this year and discussed options for next year's events. He was collecting information on hosting next year's land judging contest here in Polk County. More information to come on this.

## **X. Open Floor Discussion items:**

Mr. Kim Ford - Ramos Engineering was in attendance discussing his services for use and help to the PCSWCD board. He sent an email to the board of directors on this topic. Chairman Upthagrove was going to contact Mr. Hooks with FDACS see if this type of usage is possible.

Supervisor Darrow was to see if an FDACS representative would be attending our meeting in the future.

## **XI. The Next meeting:**

The Next meeting is scheduled for 5/16/17 at the Chain O Lakes complex Winter Haven at 6:00 pm. Discussion on moving the meeting to Lakeland. Supervisor Dockery was going to look into the options of moving.

## **XI. The Meeting adjourned at 8:31 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