

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

6th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 20th, 2017
MINUTES

The fourth meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday June 20th, 2017 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Upthagrove called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of alliance Lead by Supervisor Dockery**

Guests in Attendance:

Edward Sheehan - District Conservationist, NRCS

PC SWCD SUPERVISORS in Attendance:

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

- III. **Approval of the last meeting 5/16/17 minutes. Tabled until next meeting.**
Electronic Minutes were not available.
- IV. **NRCS Agreement discussion:**

Mutual cooperative agreement – An EEOC agreement was handed out and discussed. Ed Sheehan, NCRS, was sending to legal for the final agreement to be moved forward. The Board has reviewed and agreed to sign the agreement with the federal EEOC policy. Members present signed the agreement. Mr. Sheehan will now move forward in getting an agreement at a later date.

V. NRCS Conservation report:

Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report. He passed out the in the field magazine. This had an article about PCSWCD. Also, He stated they have received 20 contracts for funding to Polk county landowners for conservation projects thru USDA / NRCS. He talked about Greenbelt properties and how the district could learn more about the rules and incentives for land owners. The citrus to pine tree incentive to keep the Greenbelt active at 400 / trees per acer. Chairman Upthagrove and Vice Chair Masters are going to try to meet with the Polk County PA for clarification.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$13,278.46. Treasurer Dockery has filed this year's financial report to AFCD. It was discussed about the last month's expenses totaling \$202.42 were discussed by him. This was for trophies, name tags and more. **A Motion for the expenses of \$202.42 from last month was Approved 4-0.**

AFCD Annual Billing Statement – AFCD has sent a new state since funding is now available. It was approved at the May meeting for payment. Statement was sent is with check.

VII. FDACS – Funding for 2017-18: POLK Co.

Chairman Brett Upthagrove was contact by FDACS about funding for next fiscal year. He was informed the state has cut the department by 20% for funding. At this point, it looked like Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District was not going to be funded for next FY. However, Chairman Upthagrove was going to contact Tallahassee for assistance.

VIII. AFCD Website Update:

Vice- chair Masters has contacted AFCD and has collected information from them to help do the website. The Vice- chair handed out the submitted for review and editing. This included names and mission statement approved last meeting. This is for needed data for the website development by AFCD. A motion was made from the final draft to be sent to AFCD for the new website. **Motion passed 4-0 for submittal.**

IX. State Land judging contest.

Chairman Upthagrove discussed the next year land judging events and all needed to be involved. A committee meeting is going to be scheduled for 7/11/17. More information to come on this.

X. Utility Funding Opportunity:

Chairman Upthagrove discussed the Gold Coast Utility Company in Nalcrest Florida. In the 4/18/17 meeting, A discussion of the events and the sponsorship of a Utility using IRS code 63.20 for non- profits. Needed 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. Mr. Danzler received an option from the State of Florida Attorney Generals office and the response we a No. The district could not sponsor the project.

Chairman Upthagrove discussed alternative methods to keep this project active for the future. He will get back at a later date.

XI. AFCD Assoc. of Florida Con. Districts meeting in Ocala in July.

Chairman Uthagrove - discussed the upcoming annual meeting in Ocala. The board discussed attending the meeting and Supervisor training is free for those who did not go to the training last year. A motion was made to pay for one nights lodging and the registration to all who attended the meeting. No Ethics training was needed for state. **Motion passed 4-0 for reimbursement for registration and one night's hotel for meeting AFCD.**

AFCD Insurance was discussed – more information to follow.

XII. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 7/18/17 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl. at 6:00 pm.

XIII. The Meeting adjourned at 7:52 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. (Almost Complete)
4. Write a letter Mission Statement for PCSWCD. (Done)
5. Look for grants and funding opportunities.
6. Business cards for Supervisors (on order)

7. Identify projects to partner with the committee for conservation projects.
 - Community gardens
 - Rain Gardens!
 - Urban forest grants
 - Cost share projects
 - Community education
 - Speech contest
 - Envirothon
 - Land Conservation
 - Water Conservation
 - Youth education projects
 - Grants

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Darrow