

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

7th REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 18th, 2017
MINUTES

The seventh meeting of the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors was held on Tuesday July 18th, 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
Steve Dwinell - Director of Ag Water Policy, FDACS
Matt Vanzant - Environmental scientist, SWFWD

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 again at this meeting.
Approval of the last meeting 6/18/17 minutes. Motion to approved 4-0

IV. NRCS Agreement discussion:

Mutual cooperative agreement – The signed EEOC agreement was sent to Washington for the final NRCS / PCSWCD agreement to be moved forward. District Conservationist, Mr. Sheehan is still wanting on paperwork back from the home office. Date unknown for final agreement to be returned.

V. NRCS Conservation report:

Ed Sheehan, NRCS, presented a brief Conservation Report. 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 approx. \$890,000. He and his staff have gotten 14 contracts signed and they are working on the rest.

VI. Treasures Report:

Treasurer Dockery discussed current financial state at \$13,228.46. A report was handed out and approved at the meeting. A note that Treasurer Dockery has filed this year's financial report to AFCD before deadline in June. Thank you Brian! It was discussed about the AFCD annual meeting expenses to be presented at the next meeting in August.

SWFWMD - Supervisor Dockery, introduced Mr. Matt Vanzant from the South West Florida Water Management District. He gave a brief description of the FARMS program. With 1900 water use permits in Polk County, by using water for agricultural activities. He talked about the tail water recovery projects used in Ag farming and other conservation projects used in the County. He would be coming back to other meetings to present things he is doing with the Water Management District and more cooperative ideas and opportunities with PCSWCD.

AFCD Annual Billing Statement for 2017- Received payment.

VII. AFCD Website Update:

Vice- chair Masters stated the web site is online currently thru the AFCD site; <https://polksoilandwater.org/> Thank you Sharon! They used some of the information to add to the website. They are still working on it and the site needs to be editing for additions.

Polk County Property Appraiser's office – Chairman Upthagrove and Vice Char Masters met with Marsha Fox to discuss the greenbelt program for Polk County Agriculture. A most informative meeting on taxing exemptions information and partnerships for Agriculture in the County.

IX. State Land judging contest.

Chairman Upthagrove discussed the next year land judging events and all needed to be involved. The next committee meeting is going to be scheduled for 8/18/17 in Haines City. More information to come on this.

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

Chairman Upthagrove - 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. All supervisors were approved to attend meeting. However, A motion was made to pay Brett's extra night's stay since he was the area District 3 Vice present. **Motion passed 4-0 for reimbursement for registration and Bretts s hotel for meeting AFCD.**

FDACS – Funding for 2017-18: PCSWCD / FDACS

Chairman Brett Uthagrove introduced **Mr. Steve Dwinell**, Director of Ag water policy FDACS. He discussed a funding opportunity for PCSWCD, if we voted to go further, into development. He presented a few options about funding an employee to work for PCSWCD and doing Ag conservation work by goals set by FDACS. The PCSWCD would also get 5% overhead funding for the contract. There are a few options we could look at in the workings of this new employee if interested. **Motion passed 4-0 for developing a contract for an employee and funding by FDACS.**

After the passage of developing funding, He discussed he would start negotiations with us and FDACS for this employee. A vote was taken to Allow Supervisor Dockery to be the key liaison from the board to talk to Mr. Steve Dwinell about this subject matter. **Motion passed 4-0 for allowing Supervisory Dockery to negotiate and develop a contract for an employee and funding by FDACS with Mr. Dwinell.**

XII. The Next meeting:

The Next meeting is scheduled for 8/15/17 at the Lakeland Police community room in Lakeland, Fl. at 6:00 pm.

XIII. The Meeting adjourned at 7:30 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. (Complete needs edits)
4. Write a letter Mission Statement for PCSWCD. (Done)
5. Look for grants and funding opportunities.
6. Business cards for Supervisors (complete)
7. Partner with other agencies to move conservation projects to Polk County.
8. Work to hoist a successful State land Judging contest in 2018. (FFA and 4H)

9. 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