

Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting Minutes 1/15/2019

The meeting was held on January 15, 2019 at Polk State College campus in Lakeland, Florida in room LTB 1124.

I. Call to order 6:03 p.m. Brett Upthegrove

II. Pledge led by Daniel Lanier

Guests

Matt Warren - FDAC's

Charlene Meeks - AFCD

Kaylee Durrance - AFCD

PC SWCD Supervisors Present

Brett Upthegrove

Dr. Sharon Masters

Joe Garrison

Daniel Lanier

Kyle Carlton

Drew Pitts - BMP Technician- PCSWCD

III. Minutes were read and discussed. Brett asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he and Joe were unable to meet therefore Joe was unable to get the checkbooks and have his name added as a check endorser.

IV. Old Business:

- No District Conservation report

- Chair- no report

- Treasurer's Report- no report

- Website- Dr. Masters has passwords. She will attempt to add minutes after approval.

- Drew – Ag Water Policy. Slow service around the new year. He has folks signed up for BMP's. May accompany Matt VanZant from SWFWMD to go to a grove for their BMP's.

- Matt Warren – Spoke about the new ag commissioner and that there may be changes on the horizon.

- FDACS - Cost share money was spent on water recovery ponds, cross fencing, soil moisture probes.

- Common Practice Status Report- Questions on the survey that goes to the governor to give an estimate of how many farmers are using BMP's.

- Brett asked Matt about Polk cost share money. Matt replied that about 10% was spent in Polk.

- SWFWMD will start cost share with putting in center pivot irrigation for sod fields.

- FARMS programs will cost share at 50% or 75% (not certain which yet) or may retrofit old ones.

- Congressman Soto's office- not present.

V. New Business

Election of 2019 officers- Joe moved that the election occur on 1/15/2019. It was seconded by Daniel Lanier. Dr. Masters asked Charlene Meeks how officers are elected in other districts. Every year or two years was her response. Matt Warren was also asked, he stated that most boards are elected by the newly installed officers. Brett suggested that we need bylaws prior to voting. He called for a vote and there were four in favor of electing on 1/15/2015 and one opposed.

Nominations for positions were made. Joe Garrison was nominated for the chairman's position. He was elected 3-2 as chair.

Kyle Carlton was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman (4-1)

Daniel moved to combine the secretary and treasurer position. Brett seconded and the motion carried. Daniel Lanier was nominated and elected as the new secretary/treasurer.

Discussion on meeting frequency, Sunshine Law and working groups ensued. Charlene Meeks was asked about providing public notice for meetings or working groups and she suggested that the boards should follow the county commission guidelines (notice in libraries, newspapers, website update or in county seat).

Daniel moved to have meeting every other month. Motion passed, 4-1.

The next regular meeting will be March 19 (3rd Tuesday).

Kyle Carlton moved to have a work session on 2/19 at the FFA Leadership Training Center beginning at 4 p.m. to coincide with the soil speech and poster contest that will occur at the same location on that day. Motion passed.

Joe Garrison suggested that we need a part time employee and that we should petition the county commissioners for that need. Brett suggested that Joe should get added to the county commissioners' meeting agenda.

Charlene Meeks suggested that the soil and water board hold a luncheon to present ideas to the commissioners.

Open issues

Matt - Logo for Drew's truck. Brett said Matt does not want logo.

General DNO and Liability insurance is \$3080 annually. Brett may have a lower rate but will have to find the contact and report back.

Discussion about dependent and independent districts. State of Florida has three dependent districts.

Joe Garrison asked if we need an association attorney. Brett questioned where the money to pay for attorney will come from. County attorneys may be an option according to Charlene Meeks.

Dr. Masters volunteered to create a rough draft for the bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.