



Strategic Plan

2020-2024

Mission Statement: As a Special District, the Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for developing and carrying out locally-led programs for the conservation, protection, and development of soil, water, and land for agricultural purposes.

Vision Statement: Become the primary resource for landowners interested in agriculture and conservation programs and information within Okeechobee County.

A. Goal: Resource Conservation			
To assist landowners in managing natural resource concerns.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timeline
1. Conservation Planning	Basin/Watershed	Staff Agency Partners	Ongoing
2. Best Management Practices	Basin/Watershed	Staff Agency Partners *FDACS-OAWP Cost Share Administrative Fees	Ongoing
3. Farm Bill Program Implementation	Basin/Watershed	Staff *USDA-NRCS	Ongoing
4. Basin Management Action Plan	*BMAP: Caloosahatchee, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie	Staff Agency Partners Administrative Fees	Ongoing

*FDACS-OAWP: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

*USDA-NRCS: United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

*BMAP: Basin Management Action Plan adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection agency

B. Goal: Special Projects			
To provide funding opportunities for the betterment of conserving natural resources.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timetable
1. Best Management Practice Implementation	*NEEPA *BMAP	Staff Agency Partners FDACS Contracts	Annually
2. Small Farms Nutrient Management	Okeechobee County	Staff Agency Partners Administrative Fees	As Requested
3. Urban Irrigation Evaluation	Local	Staff Agency Partners Administrative Fees	As Requested
4. Emergency Watershed Assistance	Local-priority area	Staff Agency Partners Administrative Fees	As Requested
5. Invasive Species Control	Okeechobee County	Staff Administrative Fees	As Requested

*NEEPA: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Area

*BMAP: Basin Management Action Plan adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection agency

C. Goal: Special District Compliance			
To keep Okeechobee SWCD in compliance with state and federal laws.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timeline
1. Board Supervisor Training	Board of Supervisors	Conferences Meetings *AFCD *SENACD *NACD Administrative Fees	Ongoing
2. Employee Training	Staff	Conferences Meetings *FCDEA/AFCD *SECDEA/SENACD *NCDEA/NACD Administrative Fees	Ongoing
3. Code of Ethics/Sunshine Law	Board of Supervisors Staff	Commission on Ethics Department of Economic Opportunity Florida Statutes	Monthly Annually
4. Audits/Reporting	Local, State	Staff Bookkeeper Auditor General Administrative Fees	Monthly Quarterly Annually

- *AFCD: Association of Florida Conservation District
- *SENACD: Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts
- *NACD: National Association of Conservation Districts
- *FCDEA: Florida Conservation District Employees Association
- *SECDEA: Southeastern Conservation District Employees Association
- *NCDEA: National Conservation Distirct Employees Association

D. Goal: Youth Conservation Education and Outreach			
To encourage critical thinking on natural resources and agriculture for future generations.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timetable
1. Speech Contest	Local, Area, State	Staff Volunteer Judges Administrative Fees	Annually
2. Poster Contest	Local , Area, State, National	Staff Curriculum Schools Volunteer Judges Administrative Fees	Annually
3. Envirothon	Local, Regional, State	Staff Curriculum Schools Administrative Fees	Annually
4. Land Judging	Local, Regional, State	Staff Administrative Fees	Annually
5. Okeechobee AgVenture	Local	Staff Administrative Fees	Annually
6. Educator Grants	Local	Staff Administrative Fees	Ongoing

E. Goal: Adult Conservation Education and Outreach			
To bring public awareness of conservation issues, especially as they pertain to agriculture.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timetable
1. Best Management Practices	*NEEPA *BMAP	Staff FDACS Administrative Fees	Ongoing
2. Farm Bill Program Outreach	Okeechobee and Glades	Staff NRCS Administrative Fees	Ongoing
3. Field Day/Farm Tour	Local	Staff Agency Partners	Annually
4. Social Media	Local newspaper Website Facebook page	Staff Administrative Fees	Ongoing

*NEEPA: Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Area

*BMAP: Basin Management Action Plan adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection agency

F. Goal: Personnel			
Provide personnel to carry out the mission and goals of the Board of Supervisors.			
Action	Accountability/Focus	Resources	Timeline
1. District Administrator	Okeechobee County Florida	Administrative Fees Okeechobee BOCC	Ongoing
2. Program Specialist	Okeechobee and Glades County	Administrative Fees NRCS Agreement	Ongoing
3. Conservation Technicians (3)	*NEEPA *BMAP	FDACS Contracts	Ongoing