

# Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

## Board of Supervisors January Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved: January 10, 2024

Location: 200 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street Conference Room

Minutes:

- I. Motion to approve the November 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Sellers/Figley).  
Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Motion to approve the 1st Quarter (OCT-DEC) Financial Report (Sellers/Figley).  
Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Staff Program Reports
  - a. Howard Harrison gave the NRCS update report. Conservation practice implementation is ramping up. Field office personnel busy with practice checkouts. Need to schedule the Local Working Group meeting by May 2024.
  - b. FDACS- no report.
  - c. FSA- no report.
  - d. Robbi Sumner and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD program update. The Board gave their preference for receiving email communication from the Florida Commission on Ethics to Ms. Kuipers.
- IV. Unfinished Business-None
- V. New Business
  - a. Motion to approve the FY23 Annual Report (Sellers/Figley). Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Ms. Kuipers gave an overview of HB 7013 and HB 1075 and their effect on our District. Highlights of HB 7013 would add term limits to the Board and require Districts to add performance goals and measures to our websites. HB 1075 seeks to abolish Districts and regionalize them to 7 Districts. All assets would be turned over to FDACS.
  - c. Ms. Kuipers discussed the Highlands SWCD Lobbyist Proposal. Due to a difference in the direction from the Highlands SWCD Board over HB 1075, a motion to approve Audrey Kuipers, District Administrator to seek out representation for the Board up to \$50,000.00 (Sellers/Figley). Motion passed unanimously. The Board wants to remain a single county district and elected officials.
- VI. Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- a. FL Cattlemen's Allied Trade Show| January 24| Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center
- b. NACD Annual Meeting| February 10-14| San Diego, CA
- c. Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting| No February Meeting
- d. Legislative Session Ends| March 8| Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting|  
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