

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors December Minutes Approved

Approved Date: January 8, 2025

Location: 200 NW 5th Street Conference Room

Time: 1:00pm

Minutes:

- I. Motion to approve November 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Sellers/Rutledge). Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Motion to approve the November Financial Report (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Staff Program Reports
 - a. NRCS: Audrey Kuipers and Vicki Wheeler reported the new District Conservationist, Carlos Torres starts December 30, 2024. The Field Office has been finishing up Conservation Stewardship and Environmental Quality Incentive Program payments, then will focus in FY 2025 applications for Glades and Okeechobee. *Action items: Send Supervisor Corona Ft. Pierce Service Center information. Send Supervisor Sellers Sarasota Field Office information.*
 - b. FDACS: Nancy Rivera reported that the local office has moved to 308 NW 5th Avenue.
 - c. FSA: No report.
 - d. OSWCD: Vicki Wheeler and Audrey Kuipers reported on District activities, agreements, and partnerships.
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - a. Audrey Kuipers reported that the Feral Sine Management Program amendment has not been approved for denied. NACD is requesting where NRCS-FL approved the FY 2024 SE Woven Wire rate for reimbursement. We cannot move forward with fence contracting until this is resolved. Vicki Wheeler reported contracts are being sign with trap applicants.
 - b. Audrey Kuipers gave the legislative update. We are told a bill may be filed by mid-February.
- V. New Business
 - a. Motion to approve the Okeechobee Ag-Venture Inc. Educator Grant request at \$2,369.50 for stainless reusable water bottles (Sellers/Burnham). Motion

passed unanimously. Motion to approve the UF/IFAS Okeechobee Extension Office Educator Grant request at \$1,000 for soil sampling test assistance (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Audrey Kuipers met with J.P. Fraites, Assistant Director and Jane Musgrove, Senior Contract Specialist of the Office of Ag Water Policy to discuss why the new Technician Contract only allowed for 30% reimbursement of the technician benefits. It was agreed that it should be 100%, however the amount for the administrative position will be determined mid-February when we see if Legislature will be restricting the District boundaries.
 - c. The Board of Supervisors agreed with the 2024 Public Risk Management Building Summary Report building replacement and contents value of \$713,226.
- VI. Supervisor and Public Comments – None
- VII. Upcoming Events and Deadlines
- a. Board of Supervisors Meeting: January 8
 - b. Okeechobee Ag-Venture: January 8-9
 - c. Board of Supervisors Meeting: No February Meeting Scheduled

Adopted at the January 8, 2025, meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.