

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors May Meeting Minutes

Approved date: May 8, 2024

Location: 200 NW 5th Street Conference Room

Minutes:

- I. Motion to approve the March 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Sellers/Figley). Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Motion to approve the Financial Report (Sellers/Rutledge). Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Staff Program Reports
 - a. Howard Harrison, District Conservationist gave the NRCS report. Currently, there are 13 (11 Okeechobee, 2 Glades) EQIP IRA Act Now obligations and 17 (13 Okeechobee, 4 Glades) CSP obligations. Soil Conservationist, Kiersten McClintock received a promotion and will be joining the Wetland Reserves Okeechobee Staff as a Natural Resource Specialist. Lissa Campbell will fill the Soil Conservationist vacancy starting 06/17/2024.
 - b. Audrey Kuipers, District Administrator gave the FDACS update. OSWCD will be receiving an amendment to Contract 27702 with the anticipation of those funds being spent by June 30, 2024.
 - c. FSA-no report
 - d. Vicki Wheeler, Program Specialist and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD update. There were no speech entries. All the first-place posters will be moving on to the State contest. Vicki continues to do monthly collections for the MRRP. Audrey will present at the July 16 BOCC Budget Workshop and request the agreement at the current level. There are two applications for the Feral Swine Management program. One for traps and the other perimeter fence. Supervisor Rutledge and Audrey submitted the paperwork for an amendment to the NRCS Contribution Agreement. The Annual Financial Report has been certified and sent to the State. New hires, Nancy Rivera and Ash Pickett were introduced during the Local Working Group meeting and Allyson Moore is projected to start May 22nd.
- IV. Unfinished Business – None
- V. New Business
 - a. Leah Suarez and Patrick Lawson, Our Village presented their organization and Educator Grant application. Motion to approve the Our Village

application for \$2,627.70 for hydroponics units (Sellers/Figley). Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Jared Figley and Douglas Burnham will be running again in the 2024 election. Audrey will not be available during qualifying week this year and encourages candidates to complete and turn in their paperwork the week of May 28th. Audrey reminded the remaining officials that the Form 1 Financial Disclosure needs to be completed online this year by July 1st. The required ethics training will be available during the AFCD Area 4 meeting on May 23rd in Sebring or officials can take the training online. Motion to reimburse Supervisors, the cost of the online training (Sellers/Rutledge). Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- a. AFCD Area 4 Meeting: Sebring, FL: 8:30am-1:30pm
- b. Landowner Expo: June 11: Bert Harris Jr. Ag Center Auditorium, Sebring, FL
- c. Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting: June 12: Canceled
- d. SE NACD Region Meeting: June 16-18: Gainesville, FL
- e. Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting; July: No meeting scheduled
- f. Okeechobee BOCC Budget Workshop: July 16