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USDA Service Center  
452 Highway 98 N  
Okeechobee, Florida 34972  
863-763-3619 ext. 3

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

1:00PM

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

#### Call to Order at 1:00pm.

Mariano Corona-Chairman- Present  
Nicki Smith-Supervisor- Absent  
Donald Sellers, Jr.-Supervisor-Present  
Douglas Burnham-Supervisor-Present  
Glynn Rutledge-Treasurer-Present

I. Motion to approve June 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.

II. Motion to file Financial Report (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.

#### III. Staff Program Reports

1. Ms. Robbi Sumner and Mr. Howard Harrison gave the NRCS report. The NRCS all employee program meeting will be held September 27-29 in Gainesville, FL. FY 2023 EQIP Obligations: 4 Glades, 3 Okeechobee and CSP Obligations: 9 Glades, 11 Okeechobee.
2. FDACS- no report
3. FSA-no report
4. Robbi Sumner and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD report. Sumner announced the 2024 Stewardship Theme: May the Forest Be With You Always, update on Envirothon teacher/coach recruitment, 4 MRRP signs replaced, and no active interest in the feral swine program. A seed catalog was started at the Okeechobee Public Library. No Local Working Group meeting this year.

Kuipers announced \$1,816 left on NRCS Contribution Agreement, but an amendment was in the works. The BOCC Agreement will go before the Commissioners on September 28<sup>th</sup> requesting the \$10,000 increase. The AFCD and FCDEA annual meetings will be September 25-27.

#### IV. Unfinished Business

1. None

Mariano Corona  
Seat 1, Chairman

Nicki Smith  
Seat 2

Donald Sellers, Jr.  
Seat 3

Douglas Burnham  
Seat 4

Glynn Rutledge  
Seat 5



V. New Business

1. Motion to approve the FY 24 Annual Plan of Work as presented (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion to approve the Safety Plan as presented (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion to adopt FY 23 Budget Amendments and FY 24 Operating Budget as presented (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously. Within the budget includes support of Audrey Kuipers' nomination to the FCDEA Board of Directors as President and a 3% merit increase and a 2.5% COLA for all staff.
4. Motion to approve Okeechobee County Ag-Venture Inc. Educator Grant request for the purchase of reusable water bottles to be given to students, instead of plastic water bottles, up to \$2500.00 (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Upcoming Events and Deadlines

1. AFCD Annual Meeting | September 26-27 | Gainesville, FL
2. Board of Supervisors Meeting | October 11, 2023