



# OKEECHOBEE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2018-2019 Annual Report

### The Creation of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts

As a result of devastation caused by the 1930's Dust Bowl, U.S. Congress declared soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Over 3000 local districts across the U.S. were established to address conservation concerns, serving as liaisons between the federal government and local landowners.

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District (OSWCD) was organized in 1951 under the provisions of the Florida Conservation Act of 1937 and amended by the Soil Conservation Act, Florida Chapter 582. OSWCD is one of 58 districts established in Florida. Each of these districts are governed by a board of five, elected non-partisan supervisors, who prioritize and aid in the implementation of services provided by our government to our local landowners.

#### The Mission of the Conservation Districts

As a sub agency of the State, OSWCD is responsible for developing and carrying out locally-led agricultural programs for the conservation, protection, and development of soil, water and related plant and animal resources within the district boundaries.

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#### Board of Supervisors

Mariano Corona, Chairperson  
Glynn Rutledge, Sec/Treasurer  
Douglas Burnham, Supervisor  
Don Sellers, Jr., Supervisor  
Nicki Smith, Supervisor

#### District Program Manager

Audrey Kuipers

#### Program Assistant

Courtney Murphy

#### Conservation Technicians

Mikayla Allison- Okeechobee  
Ashley Avant-Osceola

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### Services

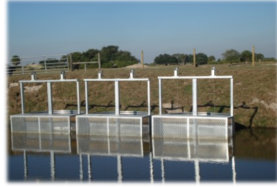
- Provide technical assistance with conservation planning and best management practice implementation
- Partner with state and federal governments to provide environmental incentive programs to landowners
- Environmental education
- Serve as a fiscal agent for the Florida Department of Agriculture Office of Agricultural Water Policy



Alternative water source is a water quality best management practice that provides fresh water and limits the congregation of livestock in nearby streams and canals.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

# 4.8



### MILLION IN STATE COST SHARE

Administered over **\$4.8** million in state BMP (Best Management Practice) cost share projects that will help reduce run-off to Lake Okeechobee and the NEEPA (Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Area).

# 79



### LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS

Entered into cost share agreements with the Florida Department of Agriculture Office of Agricultural Water Policy, **79** agricultural producers and **1** county government in the Northern Everglades Estuary Protection Area covering **175,386** acres to implement best management practices.

# 15,981



### DOLLARS IN NEW CONTRACTS

Assisted the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with **1** new federal obligations of **\$15,981** encompassing **6** acres in Okeechobee County.

# 29,866



### ACRES ENROLLED

Assisted with managing **26** existing Farm Bill Program contracts with **\$1.4** million in obligations covering **29,866** acres in Okeechobee County. Fourteen (**14**) conservation easements totaling **14,738** acres in Okeechobee County.

# EDUCATION

# 1000+



Orchestrated soil conservation exhibits, conducted soil erosion and water quality demonstrations to youth ranging from grades K-12 through programs such as:

### ENVIROTHON

Provided avenue for students to participate in the Indian River Lagoon Regional Envirothon.

### LAND JUDGING EVALUATION

Provided **land evaluation** opportunities that aid with students' understanding of soil and water interactions.



### OKEECHOBEE AG-VENTURE

Assisted in orchestrating an agricultural education event for Okeechobee County 4th grade students.

### SPEECH AND POSTER

Engaged students to begin thinking about natural resources and agriculture through local, regional and state level contests.

# 80

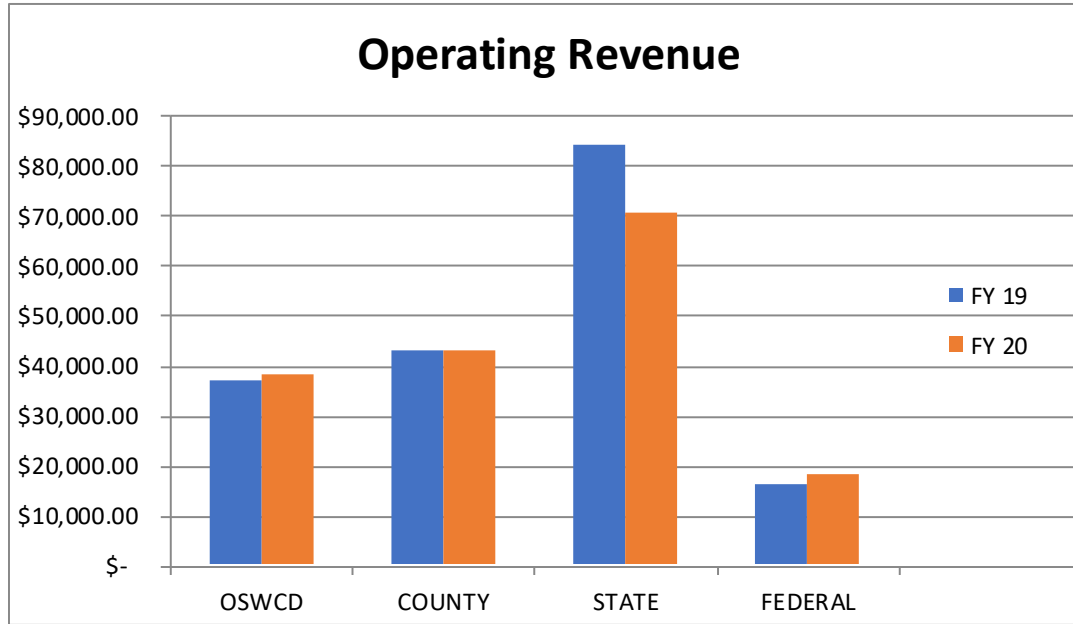
### MONOFILAMENT RECOVERY

Recycled **80** pounds of monofilament fishing line collected from local boat ramps and tackle shops.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

Chart 1. Operating Revenue



FY 19 operating income totaled \$180,163. FY 20 is projected at \$171,400.

\*\*Not included in Chart 1. Operating Income are FY 2019 Special Revenue projects which totaled \$4,885,900 in best management practice implementation to improve water quality in the Lake Okeechobee BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) and surrounding watersheds.

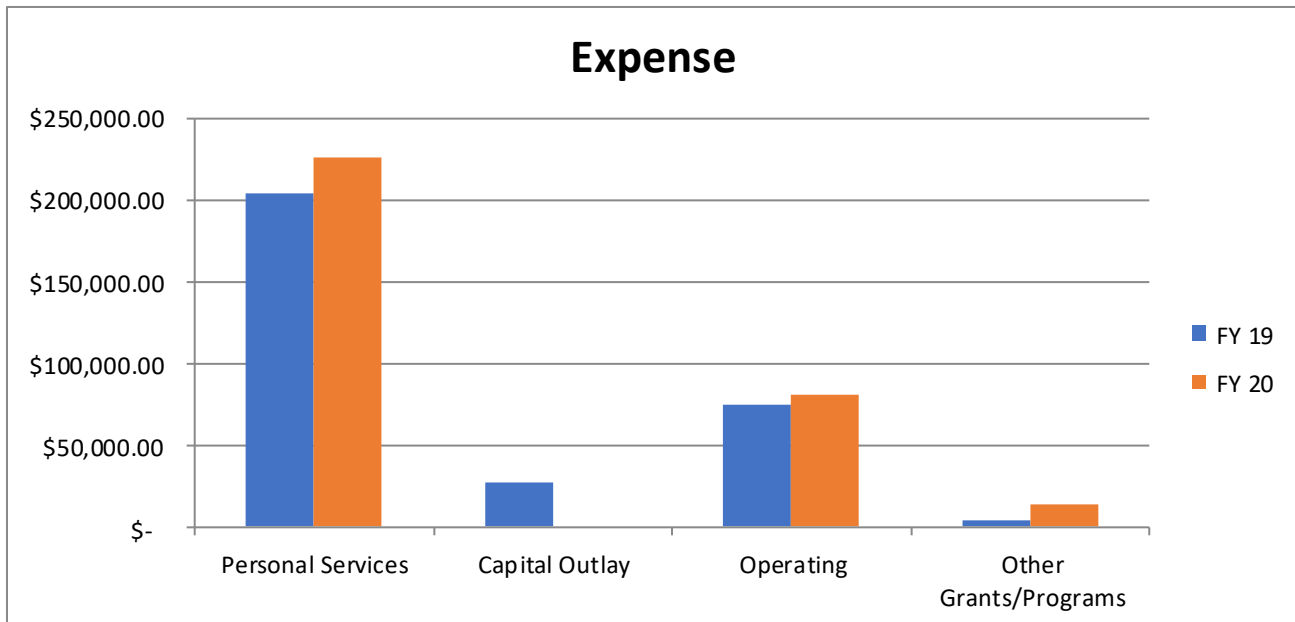
\*\*In Fiscal Year 2020, special revenue projects are projected to total \$5,205,093 in cost share dollars.

Table 1. Operating and Special Revenue

REVENUE	2019	2020
OSWCD	\$36,982	\$38,000
COUNTY	\$43,000	\$43,000
STATE	\$84,171	\$70,400
FEDERAL	16,100	20,000
**SPECIAL REVENUE	\$4,885,900	\$5,205,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,066,153</b>	<b>\$5,548,219</b>

# Financial Statement of Activity

Chart 2. Operating Expense



FY 19 operating expense totaled \$309,438. FY 20 is projected at \$320,699

\*\*Not included in Chart 2. Operating Expense are FY 2019 Special Revenue projects which totaled \$4,806,602 in best management practice implementation to improve water quality in the Lake Okeechobee BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) and surrounding watersheds.

\*\*In Fiscal Year 2020, special revenue projects are projected to total 5,205,093 in cost share dollars.

Table 2. Expense and Special Revenue Expense

EXPENSE	2019	2020
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$203,902	\$225,522
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$26,682	\$0
OPERATING	\$74,574	\$80,862
OTHER GRANTS/PROGRAMS	\$4,280	\$14,315
**SPECIAL REVENUE	\$4,885,900	\$5,205,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,119,868</b>	<b>\$5,525,792</b>