

***Osceola Soil & Water Conservation District***

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** June 23, 2021

**PRESENT:** Supervisors Anthony “Tony” Busby, Larry Allen Schneck, Matthew Boggs, Dr. Deborah Livingston (via phone), Mr. Chuck O’Rourke, District Conservationist, and Subcommittee Chairperson Andrew Jeng (via phone). Guests: None.

**ABSENT:** Supervisor Jackie Henry

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairperson Tony Busby called the meeting to order after achieving quorum at 5:03 at the UF/IFAS Extension Services Office.

* **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Busby and Invocation from Secretary Schneck. Supervisor Boggs asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Saint Cloud City Council Member Chuck Cooper.
* **Minutes:** May 19, 2021 Minutes approved by voice vote 4-0.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Dr. Livingston stated the operating account balance is $369.90. She said she’s requested the paperwork to register the OSWCD bank account as non-profit to avoid a monthly charge. Mr. O’Rourke said the account should be a government agency and not subject to any fees. The Board approved to move this item to next month’s agenda to continue to discuss.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** Mr. O’Rourke presented two documents to the Board. He received their signatures for the annual Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners training. Also, he gave a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Osceola Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Mr. O’Rourke said he executed nine (9) contracts with landowners in Osceola County in Fiscal Year 2021, totaling $963,848 covering 1,313,852 acres of ranch land. He said there are opportunities for OSWCD to apply for grants through a competitive grant system. Many of the projects are focused on evasive species management. Supervisor Boggs will watch a slide briefing and review possible opportunities.

**Old Business**

* + **Possible Removal of Supervisor Jacqueline Henry, Seat 1:** Supervisor Jackie Henry was elected to her current term of four years in 2018 (Term 2019 - 2023). Motion to remove failed for lack of second motion. Motion passed 4-0 to reschedule item to next month’s agenda.
  + **Letter to Turtle Creek Homeowners Association:** Supervisor Boggs made corrections to the draft letter before it is sent to the HOA. Supervisor Boggs and Secretary Schneck will visit the Turtle Creek reservoir and monitor the possible contamination. They will report to the Board next month.

**New Business**

* **Financial Disclosure Forms:** The annual State of Florida disclosure of income sources is due July 1, 2021 to the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections Office.
* **Fresh Community:** Mr. Jeng said the next event for the Fresh Community Project will be the weekend after Independence Day, July 9 – 10, 2021. Osceola County can no longer support these events by providing tools. He stated the parks are well maintained and not in need of cleaning, so he will shift to cleaning up streets like Osceola Parkway. He will need a permit. Chair Busby asked the cleanups take safety in mind and use bright vests and other safety or Personal Protective Equipment. Treasurer, Dr. Livingston, presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers at the Fathers Day BBQ.
* **Victory Gardens:** Eva Pabon, UF/IFAS Extension Services Office, provided guidance and good instructions how to setup an urban garden and planting. The first garden area will be cleaned up in late July with educational component of the project to take place for gardeners later in the summer or early fall. Chair Busby said a farm in Lake Nona is working with hydroponics and may donate some support.

**Public Comment:** “Keep Osceola Beautiful” has a Facebook presence and is cleaning up areas in Osceola County. Supervisor Boggs encouraged volunteers to help this organization conduct its Saturday cleanups. Chair Busby commented “Save Saint Cloud” was another opportunity with Trashy Tuesdays taking place at the park on the East Lake Toho lakefront park.

**Adjournment:** 5:39 p.m.

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. **\***

**\* Note: Board moved July meeting to July 28th.**