## http://www.nacdnet.org/images/resources/logos/images/c150.gifOsceola Soil & Water Conservation District

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** July 20, 2022

**PRESENT:**  Chairperson Valerie Anderson, Secretary Larry Allen Schneck, Sr., Conservationist Mr. Chuck O’Rourke, Assistant State Conservationist Walter Albarran, and Dr. Deborah Livingston on Zoom. No guests.

**ABSENT:** Vice-chairperson Matthew Kirk-Boggs (reported to the Board he’s not able to attend), Supervisor Jackie Henry, and Subcommittee chairperson Mr. Andrew Jeng.

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**  Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. EDT. Quorum verified.

* **Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary Schneck.
* **Minutes:** June 1, 2022 Minutes approved by voice vote of 3-0. Meeting minutes posted on OSWCD Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/](https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/" \t "_blank).
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Dr. Livingston stated the balance of the bank account remains $1,015.09.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** Mr. O’Rourke said he provided support to Orange County land owners. There are six (6) contracts submitted using E-Quip with financial assistance requests for fences and burning. Ranchers are concerned about inflation and fuel costs. Support is incentive dollar based and proceeding as outlined in current guidance. Urban area support remains a desired opportunity to offer conservation to new areas in Orange and Osceola counties. Dr. Livingston asked about the cost of fertilizer costs. Mr. O’Rourke talked about herbicidal and fertilizer prices doubling in the last year. This is a concern of landowners in Osceola County.

**Old Business**

* **Association of Florida Conservation Districts:** Chair Anderson and Treasurer Livingston attended the AFCD Area 4 meeting. They returned with information about activities of AFCD and its work to support conservation districts. Chair Anderson said that AFCD was in favor of Senate Bill 1078 and there was a motion to dissolve AFCD.
* **Assistant Conservationist Report:** Mr. Albarran said he’s increasing the participation of local residents to boost funding. He will obligate 99 contracts valued at $5.8 million. He said CSB is $1.4 million with 37 contracts. Florida is underutilized with 102 at the state level. He wants to get 150 to 200 in the next two (20 years. Each office will have its own pool of funding. He wants to address the needs and priorities of local residents. He will work with local areas and work groups.

**New Business**

* **Board of Supervisors:** Chairperson Anderson said there will be a new group of supervisors as of January 1, 2023. Mr. Albarran said there’s training available to the new members. AFCD is providing training online. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a local working group October 19, 2022 and requests feedback via a questionnaire. The Chair is looking to get feedback via a survey and submit a response. Resources area concern and where to place funding. A board member should be the point of contact. The Chairperson will respond to the e-mailed questionnaire and let the board know a date, time, and place.
* **Chairperson Report:**  Chair Anderson said Districts must have an even distribution of voting lines similar to the county commissioner areas. She would like to ask the State to draw lines for a reset of districts within the county. If the State redraws the district lines that would trigger a new election to have equal lines of redistricting. Dr. Livingston asked if the Conservationist had an opinion. Mr. O’Rourke had no opinion. Secretary Schneck made a motion to have the Chair contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Conservation Service to create five (5) districts within Osceola County. Motion passed 3-0.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** 4:48 p.m. EDT

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 4:00 p.m. EDT online Zoom