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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 18, 2021

**PRESENT:** Acting Chairperson Matthew Kirk-Boggs, Supervisors Larry Allen Schneck and Dr. Deborah Livingston, and subcommittee chairperson, Mr. Andrew Jeng. Guests: Ariel Hartney, Chris Ladas-Drake, Mike Lella, Teresa Mailhot, Brandi James, David K. and Sarah Lee from Keep Osceola Beautiful, Valerie Anderson, Phillip Lantry, and former Chairperson Anthony “Tony” Busby.

**ABSENT:** Conservationist, Mr. Chuck O’Rourke, and Supervisor Jackie Henry.

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Acting Chairperson Boggs called the meeting to order after achieving quorum at 5:09 p.m. EDT on Zoom.

* **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary Schneck and invocation by Dr. Livingston.
* **Minutes:** July 28, 2021 Minutes approved by voice vote 3-0 with two corrections made by Dr. Livingston and one by Secretary Schneck.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Dr. Livingston stated the operating account balance is $369.90 and the Envirothon account is closed.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** None

**Old Business**

* + **Contact at Tallahassee:** Secretary Schneck contacted the Office of the Governor and received the name of Ms. Smith as the point for coordinating the removal and appointment of supervisors.

**New Business**

* **Nominations:** Acting Chair Boggs opened the floor for nominations and turned over the meeting to Secretary Schneck. Dr. Livingston nominated Andrew Jeng, Acting Chair Boggs nominated Valerie Anderson, and Secretary Schneck nominated Mr. Tony Busby. Each candidate or guest was allowed to speak in the following order:
* **Andrew Jeng:** He said he has lived in Osceola County 15 years. He’s involved in civic engagement and in 2018 ran for city commissioner and was a Florida house candidate. Mr. Jeng focuses on environmental activity to create programs to clean the community. The Victory Garden project is spearheaded by him. He would like extend his programs to wider areas for greater impact.
* **Valerie Anderson:** Joined the NRCS while a student at the University of Florida. She worked several years for Chuck O’Rourke at the Extension Services Office. She has experience working with ranchers and pursued her graduate work in the same field. She has experience in Conservation and Easement monitoring. She was active in Environthon. She wrote her graduate thesis on Split Oaks Mitigation Forrest and is familiar with grant writing and reports. She formed a group to help save Split Oak.
* **Sarah Lee:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson and her nomination. Ms. Lee runs Keep Osceola Beautiful.
* **David Lee:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson and her nomination and nominated himself. He has a degree related to environmental issues and would like to be considered for an open position.
* **Teresa Mailhot:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson and her nomination.
* **Mike Lella:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson’s nomination.
* **Ariel Hartney:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson and her nomination.
* **Brandi James:** Member of Save Saint Cloud and the city’s current water issues. Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson.
* **Phillip Lantry:** Spoke in support of Valerie Anderson. Requested contact and study information for NRCS and Chuck O’Rourke’s activities. Valerie Anderson spoke on what the mission and job is of the Soil and Water and USDA/NRCS offices. Rotation grazing, cover cropping, and preventing the next dust bowl are some of the top objectives. Secretary Schneck said he would send information to Mr. Lantry.
* **Chris Ladas-Drake:** Supports Valerie Anderson’s nomination.
* **Tony Busby:** Mr. Busby said he supports Valerie Anderson as an excellent candidate, but he would also like to be considered for open position and accepts his nomination.
* **Nominations Closed:** The four nominees are David Lee, Andrew jeng, Valerie Anderson, and Tony Busby.
* **Ranked-choice voting:** Acting Chair Boggs motioned to use ranked-choice voting to select the person to be appointed to the open seat. Motion passed 3-0. In the public voice voting, Secretary Schneck tallied the results from the three supervisors. Valerie Anderson received 10 points, Tony Busby 7, Andrew Jeng 6, and David Lee 3 points. Ms. Anderson will replace Mr. Busby and serve his remaining two and a half years in Seat 2.
* **Resolution:** Secretary Schneck will draft a resolution letter for digital signatures and packing with Mr. Busby’s resignation letter and the meeting minutes. The request will go to the point of contact at the Office of the Governor for review and action.
* **Environthon Fundraising:** It’s time to send a letter to the county commissioners requesting funds. Acting Chair Boggs will talk to Chuck to get a letter template and push this through. Dr. Livingston said the Envirothon bank account needs to be reopened.
* **Turtle Creek:** Acting Chair Boggs made four trips to the retention pond and didn’t find any smelliness. He asked for input from the meeting guests. Motioned passed 3-0 to remove this item from and close it.
* **Victory Gardens:** Mr. Andrew Jeng said he held a third meeting along with Dr. Livingston continuing to move this project forward. He’s looking for more support. Ms. Eva Pabon and two Oak Leaf Landings people are helping. Future gardeners also attended the last meeting.
* **Fresh Community:** September 18, 2021 is the date for the next event. Mr. Jeng will hold it at two locations in Osceola County. One will be at Osceola Parkway and Michigan Street near Wal-mart and a second location also in Kissimmee.
* **Public Comment:** Phillip Lantry asked where the Soil and Water agenda is posted. Secretary Schneck said agendas, meeting notices, and minutes are on Facebook.com/OSWCD.

**Adjournment:** 6:10 p.m.

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom