

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

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES**



**DATE:** December 13, 2023

**PRESENT:** Chair Valerie Anderson, Vice Chair Michele Walker, Secretary Evelina ‘Vel’ Vengco, Treasurer Joel Davis, and Supervisor Beuhlah ‘Rosita’ Farquharson; Guests: Conservationist Charles O’Rourke

**ABSENT:** none

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. EST. Quorum was verified by Vice Chair Walker. All Supervisors were present in-person.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Anderson motioned to skip the pledge, Supervisor Walker seconded, passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Motion made by Treasurer Davis, seconded by Vice Chair Walker. Meeting minutes posted on OSWCD Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/>.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Davis didn’t present a report this month.

**Conservationist’s Report:** District Conservationist O’Rourke reported on upcoming EQIP and CSP deadlines, number of applications, and geographic scope.

### **Old Business**

- **Soil Tech Hiring:** Discussed that Osceola funds a soil and water section, but we have
- **Community Gardens:** Valerie contacted Christine Saintlouis but she hasn’t returned her calls or emails regarding the Hopkins Park community gardens. Other Supervisors haven’t made any progress on community garden contacts.

- **Rejoining AFCD:** Only \$350, board is supportive of rejoining in 2024.
- **Website:** Valerie met with Streamlines, a company out of California that makes websites for small government agencies and specializes in serving Soil and Water Conservation Districts. They are \$750 year, and so the board consensus is that we can't afford that. The board is supportive of establishing a website via other means
- **Appointment letters:** Valerie submitted the appointment letters to the Department of State on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

- **Herbicide in Natural Areas Workshop** – January 30, 2024 09:00-16:00 with Osceola CISMA – we have offered to sponsor snacks and coffee, have relayed that back to Dana Sussman.
- **Envirothon 2024** – February 24 9:00-14:00, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Seminole SWCD Supervisor Gabbie Milch was supposed to present to us but she was unable to attend the meeting. Valerie gave a brief overview of the event and will attend planning meetings with other county's supervisors and The Nature Conservancy staff. Gabbie has asked if we would be able to staff stations. Chuck committed to getting the Envirothon donation request letters to Valerie within the next week so that we can raise additional funds for this year's Envirothon.
- **Weed Wrangle** – March 2, 2024 09:00-11:00 with Osceola CISMA – picking up invasive air potato bulbils at Peghorn Park. Supervisors should consider volunteering at this event.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** 4:38 p.m. EST

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 16:00 EDT online via Google Meet [meet.google.com/ocz-cqgj-aac](https://meet.google.com/ocz-cqgj-aac) and in-person at UF/IFAS Osceola Extension Office Room 161, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744