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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** February 16, 2022

**PRESENT:**  Chairperson Valerie Anderson, Vice-chairperson Matthew Kirk-Boggs, Secretary Larry Allen Schneck, and Conservationist Mr. Chuck O’Rourke in person, and Treasurer Dr. Deborah Livingston via Zoom. Guest: Ms. Rachel O’Keefe on Zoom.

**ABSENT:** Supervisor Jackie Henry and Subcommittee chairperson Mr. Andrew Jeng.

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**  Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. EST. She asked the Secretary to establish supervisors present. The Secretary verified quorum of three supervisors present in person.

* **Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary Schneck.
* **Minutes:** January 19, 2022 Minutes approved by voice vote of 3-0. All official, approved meeting minutes posted on OSWCD Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/](https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Dr. Livingston stated in an e-mail message to board members that there was no treasurer report for today’s meeting. Vice-chair Boggs motioned to table the report to March. Motion seconded by Secretary Schneck. Motion passed 3-0. Treasurer Livingston stated in the note read by Vice-chair Boggs, that she deposited two checks sent to her by Secretary Schneck. The donation checks totaled $700.00 and are earmarked for Envirothon 2023. The checks were the following: 1. Bronsons Partnership $200.00; and 2. Northern Star Generation Services Company LLC $500.00.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** Mr. O’Rourke said he was tracking 12 E-Quip contract requests and 3 other partnerships. He stated his counterpart in Cocoa, Florida is taking on new duties at the State of Florida level. Mr. O’Rourke said he is going to resume oversight of Brevard and Seminole Counties in addition to Osceola County for the next 120 days until June 3, 2022. Vice-chairperson Boggs asked how much grant and loan money the contracts and partnerships were bringing to Osceola County. The conservationist responded he would include the data in a future report to the Board of Supervisors.

**Old Business**

* **Vermiculture Initiative:** Secretary Schneck said he hadn’t talked to Dr. Livingston as of the meeting about this program proposed by Mr. Carlton Pomeroy at last month’s meeting. He requested to speak to the treasurer at this meeting. The Chair granted permission. Mr. Schneck pitched the use of food refuse as composting for black dirt in the Victory Gardens Project spearheaded by Dr. Livingston at an Osceola County retirement home.

Vermiculture and compositing could be started by building a composter or similar ability to put food thrown out from the retirement home’s cafeteria and placing the refuse in the urban gardening beds to begin making the required black dirt. The composting process takes up to a year and vermiculture using worms requires a couple of months. Vermiculture, however, is more manpower intensive because the worms need someone to take care of them to avoid their loss. Dr. Livingston said she would approach her contact at the site of the Victory Gardens.

**New Business**

* **Florida Commission on Ethics:** Chairperson Anderson provided a new snail mail address to Secretary Schneck. Mr. Schneck said he would update the communication address on the Florida Commission on Ethics web site. Vice-chair Boggs asked the Chair if she had received her oath of office certificate or sworn, notarized statement that needs to be returned to the Governor’s Appointments Office in order to officially seat Ms. Anderson.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Rachel O’Keefe asked if Envirothon 2022 had been cancelled or if it had been rescheduled. Chair Anderson answered her question with a nod to Mr. O’Rourke. The conservationist cancelled the 2022 event and plans to hold Envirothon 2023. Yes, Envirothon was cancelled.

**Adjournment:** 4:27 p.m. EST

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 4:00 p.m. EST at the Extension Services Office, Osceola Heritage Park, and online via Zoom.