

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors September Meeting Minutes

Approved date: September 13, 2023

Location: 200 NW 5th Street Conference Room

Minutes:

- I. Motion to approve June 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Motion to file Financial Report (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Staff Program Reports
 - a. Ms. Robbi Sumner and Mr. Howard Harrison gave the NRCS report. The NRCS all employee program meeting will be held September 27-29 in Gainesville, FL. FY 2023 EQIP Obligations: 4 Glades, 3 Okeechobee and CSP Obligations: 9 Glades, 11 Okeechobee.
 - b. FDACS- no report
 - c. FSA-no report
 - d. Robbi Sumner and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD report. Sumner announced the 2024 Stewardship Theme: May the Forest Be With You Always, update on Envirothon teacher/coach recruitment, 4 MRRP signs replaced, and no active interest in the feral swine program. A seed catalog was started at the Okeechobee Public Library. No Local Working Group meeting this year. Kuipers announced \$1,816 left on NRCS Contribution Agreement, but an amendment was in the works. The BOCC Agreement will go before the Commissioners on September 28th requesting the \$10,000 increase. The AFCD and FCDEA annual meetings will be September 25-27.
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - a. None
- V. New Business
 - a. Motion to approve the FY 24 Annual Plan of Work as presented (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Motion to approve the Safety Plan as presented (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Motion to adopt FY 23 Budget Amendments and FY 24 Operating Budget as presented (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed unanimously. Within the budget includes support of Audrey Kuipers' nomination to the FCDEA Board

of Directors as President and a 3% merit increase and a 2.5% COLA for all staff.

- d. Motion to approve Okeechobee County Ag-Venture Inc. Educator Grant request for the purchase of reusable water bottles to be given to students, instead of plastic water bottles, up to \$2500.00 (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- a. AFCD Annual Meeting |September 26-27 |Gainesville, FL
- b. Board of Supervisors Meeting| October 11, 2023