

# Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

## Board of Supervisors March Meeting Minutes

Approved Minutes: April 10, 2024

Location: 200 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street Conference Room

Minutes:

- I. Motion to approve the January 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes with a correction to Item V.1. Supervisor Sellers made the motion, not Smith (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed.
- II. Motion to approve the Financial Report (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed.
- III. Staff Program Reports
  - a. Howard Harrison, NRCS District Conservationist gave the NRCS update. A new Natural Resource Specialist position had been filled and discussed the 2024 funding cycle.
  - b. Audrey Kuipers, District Administrator gave the FDACS update. The West Gregory, OAWP Director is launching a new way for producers to sign up for cost share with the BMP program (Survey 1,2,3) to determine eligibility. A couple of key employees have resigned. Program is capping cost share for fence at \$4.50/ft.
  - c. FSA- No report.
  - d. Robbi Sumner, Program Specialist and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD program report. Kuipers discussed personnel changes. Ms. Sumner will be resigning as of March 26th and Vicki Wheeler, Technician has been promoted to Program Specialist beginning those March 13th. Technician interviews are set for March 13th and 15th.
- IV. Unfinished Business
  - a. Ms. Kuipers shared that HB 1075 Soil and Water Districts and companion SB 1772 died in committee, but we will have to work hard this summer to prepare for next year.
- V. New Business
  - a. Ms. Kuipers updated the Board of the OPPAGA audit progress (HB 1107-2021).
  - b. Ms. Kuipers reached out to Board Lobbyist, Jim Sprat to discuss how HB 7013 Special Districts affects our District.

- c. Ms. Kuipers reminded the Supervisors about the Florida Statute- Ethics Training that is required of all elected officials in the State of Florida. A free course (4-hours) will be offered during the Area 4 Meeting in Sebring, May 23rd or the Board can take an online course for \$79. It must be completed by December 31st.
  - d. Motion to approve the Educator Grant application from the Friends of the Library to be funded at \$1000 (Sellers/Burnham). Motion passed.
  - e. Motion to amend the Feral Swine Management program to allow for multiple traps up to 3 for landowners with 200 acres or more, and 1 trap to landowners with less than 200 acres of treated land (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed.
  - f. April 10- 1pm- Ms. Kuipers will call into the meeting.
  - g. May 8- 12pm Local Working Group, followed by BOS meeting at 1pm- Extension Office
  - h. June 12- Meeting conflicts- may cancel
  - i. July - No Board Meeting but have the BOCC Budget Presentation
  - j. August 14- 1pm OSWCD budget preparations from staff
  - k. September 11- 1pm- Budget presentations continue
- VI. Upcoming Events and Deadlines
- a. SECDEA Mid-Year| Lexington, KY | April 8-10
  - b. Board of Supervisors Meeting | April 10
  - c. BOCC Board Meeting | Proclamation | April 11
  - d. FCDEA Mid-Year | Gainesville | April 24-25
  - e. Speech Contest | April 30
  - f. National Stewardship Week | April 28-May 5