**Lake Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**

**1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778**

**February 19, 2020**

The Board of Supervisors, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD), met on February 19, 2020, at the UF/IAS Lake County Extension Center at 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778. Those present were:

**Supervisors:** Banks Helfrich, Rose Fitzpatrick, and Robert Myatt. **Absent:** Supervisor Cassandra Brown (death in family) and Supervisor Susan Fetter (illness).

**Guests:** Kevin Hill, DC, NRCS; Margaret Jarrell, Extension Office; Megan Mann, Extension Office; Charlene Meeks, Executive Director, AFCD; and from MIL Adam Boykin, Nick Zurasky, Sean Tracy and Aaron Grimes.

**Staff:** Sharon Redding, Administrative Assistant

At 3:00, Banks Helfrich, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting had been noticed and proof of publication was presented.

**Welcome:**  Banks Helfrich welcomed everyone.

**Public Comments:** the floor was open for public comments; no public comments were brought forth.

**Meeting Minutes:** the minutes of 12-04-2019 and 01-15-2020, were presented as corrected. A motion was made by Rose Fitzpatrick to approve the December 2019 and January 2020 minutes, seconded by Robert Myatt. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:** the financial report for January 2020 was approved as submitted.

**Correspondence/Action Items:** LSWCD received a letter from the Alachua SWCD requesting donations for their Land Judging Contest. Charlene Meeks, Executive Director AFCD, shed light on the situation. Alachua holds the State Land Judging Contest and is asking for assistance. A motion was made by Rose Fitzpatrick to send $100 to Alachua SWCD to assist with the State Land Judging Contest, seconded by Robert Myatt. Motion carried unanimously.

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Kevin Hill presented the following report:

* Personnel updates: State Conservationist Position has closed, no announcement yet as to who was selected.
* Report on conservation practices installed: grazing practices: heavy use areas, fence, water troughs, pipeline
* Conservation Program updates: EQIP/CSP—application deadline for 2020 is 03-06-2020
* Other business: EQIP 2020 meeting is planned for February 24th in Gainesville, FL

**FDACS Office of Agricultural Policy (OAWP):** no representative present or report given.

**Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL):** Adam Boykin reported MIL is servicing 23 counties; MIL has completed 39 out of 68 evaluations. There had been a State wide meeting held on today’s date and many new changes coming our way.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2020 Events:**

* **Tree Give Away:** Banks Helfrich reported the Tree-Give-Away was very successful and all the trees were given away. He does suggest that next year we get all the trees from local growers, perhaps adding fruit trees to the mix. The Master Gardeners were a great help.
* **Land Judging:** Rose Fitzpatrick reported things were going smoothly. Three high schools and three middle schools participating. It will be at the Sumter County Fairgrounds on 02-27-20, at 9:00 am. The exact location for the judging is a secret until that morning.
* **Environthon:** Robert Myatt still needs volunteers. Rose Fitzpatrick and Susan Fetter will be on the scoring table, but most important-- he needs a time keeper. The Water Authority is providing the schools with transportation, ice and water. Mr. Myatt has information about the State Environthon. 03-26-2020
* **Scholarship:** Ms. Redding reported several emails, on behalf of Cassandra Brown, with Gail Weidner, who represents the Lake County Schools. 03-15-2020
* **Poster:**  Banks Helfrich working on this project, nothing to report at this time. 04-01-2020

**Facebook Photo Contest:** Banks Helfrich is posting photos on Facebook of our water saving prizes.

**Charlene Meeks, Executive Director, AFCD:** Mrs. Meeks discussed the upcoming Area 3 AFCD Meeting which LSWCD is hosting on April 24, 2020. She provided registration sheets, other pertinent information for the event, and explained the agenda. The other topic of conversation was concerning the Sunshine Law and how it affects our LSWCD Supervisors.

**AFCD area 3 Meeting:**  Rose Fitzpatrick is in charge of this event. The meeting will be held on 04-24-20, at the UF/IAS Lake County Extension Center, starting at 9:00 am. A box lunch will be provided. Also the Poster and Speech Contests will be held that day: three judges needed for both poster and speech contests. Rose Fitzpatrick said there is a registration fee of $10—please complete the form, attach check, and return to the LSWCD P.O. address. Speaker suggestions tabled until next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board went into a closed session for a brief time. The closed session over, the meeting re-opened and resumed with New Business.

The brochures were distributed among those present.

**Board Comments:**  no longer will be in the minutes.

**Adjourn:** No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 and the next meeting will take place on March 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Redding, Administrative Assistant LSCWD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_