**LAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

The Board of Supervisors, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD), met on September 18, 2019, at the UF/IAS Lake County Extension Center at 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Fl 32778. Those present were:

**Supervisors:** Banks Helfrich, Robert Myatt, and Cassandra Brown

**Absent:** Rose Fitzpatrick and Tim O’Connell

**Guests:** Charlene Meeks, Executive Director, AFCD; Richard Darby, First Vice President, AFCD; Sean Tracy, Nick Zurasky, Adam Boykin, Stephanie Klein, and Aaron Grimes, MIL; Megan Mann, UF/IAS Lake County Extension Center

**Staff:** Sharon Redding, Administrative Assistant, LSWCD

At 3:05 pm, Chairperson Banks Helfrich, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting had been noticed and proof of publication was presented.

**Welcome:** We had two special guests—Charlene Meeks, Executive Director of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (Chiefland, Fl); and Richard Darby, First Vice President of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (Green Cove Springs, Fl). Everyone introduced themselves.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** the minutes of the August 21, 2019, were presented, with three corrections made by Rose Fitzpatrick via email. A motion was made by Robert Myatt to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Cassandra Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer, Rose Fitzpatrick, had distributed the 2019-2020 Budget by email. A motion was made by Robert Myatt to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Cassandra Brown. Motion carried unanimously. Chairperson Banks Helfrich went to a County Manager’s meeting and discovered that LSWCD may request funds from the County Manger. If we have a special project, we can ask for funds to assist with that project. At that same meeting, Banks Helfrich learned that the annual audit is paid by funds from MIL.

**Correspondence /Action Items:** Sharon Redding reported we received two checks from the State of Florida: one in the amount of $65,000.65 and one in the amount of $5,795.84, totaling $70,796.89. The Board thought the funds were to be direct deposit, not actual checks. Banks Helfrich will make the deposit.

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** No report. Chuck O’Rourke unable to attend.

**FDACS—Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP):** No report. Lauren Dorval was unable to attend.

**Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL):** MIL has completed 68/68 evaluations and has started on their next quota. They will be working on the next three year contract’s budget for FDACS; also be making a proposal for a 3rd team to assist in covering our large area and growing waiting list. MIL is now covering 26 counties, all within the St. John’s Water Authority.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**County Commissioner’s Meeting:** Banks Helfrich will attend the next County Commissioner’s meeting on October 8, 2019, at 9:00 am; and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

**2020 Events:** Banks Helfrich contacted the County Forest Ranger, Chris Otremba, who donated 250 trees and gave $200 to purchase saplings. We were advised to buy local and Cherry Lake Farms was mentioned as a source. Cassandra Brown reported that she has been researching information for the Scholarship program. Robert Myatt announced LSWCD will have our Envirothon on 03-26-20. And the state level will be on 04-25-20. Hickory Point Park has been reserved for 03-26-20. There will be 5 categories plus current events. LSWCD will have tee-shirts this year at the event, as per the state’s Envirothon rules. Robert Myatt was also informed that we need to have a speech contest. Banks Helfrich will think about taking on the Speech Contest.

**Farm Tour:** The Farm Tour is on November 22, 2019, from 8—5, and the cost is $50 per person. Megan Mann explained the cost of the tour includes the bus, lunch and visits to 4 different farms located all over the county.

**Charlene Meeks, AFCD:** Charlene Meeks, Executive Director of AFCD, publishes our meetings in different publications. Mrs. Meeks asked Ms. Redding to notify her as soon as possible after the Board decides the meeting dates for 2020. The discussion of meeting dates for 2020 was tabled until the November meeting. Also, Mrs. Meeks reminded LSWCD that we are hosting the Area 3 Meeting in 2020 and provided a handout that will serve as a guideline for the meeting, with requirements that have to be on the agenda. Another handout was given concerning the 2020 NACD Annual Meeting, to be held in Las Vegas, in February, 2020.

Clarification was given concerning the speech and poster contest: the winners of the local contests go to the Area 3 level for competition.

Charlene Meeks also clarified the issue of the Supervisors and staff having government emails—which had been mentioned previously at a meeting by another guest speaker. There is no such thing available. However, each Supervisor/Staff should have a separate email for LSWCD, nothing that is linked to personal use. All of us but one already has a separate LSWCD email and the situation will be corrected immediately.

Mrs. Meeks also reminded the Board of the Area 3 Workshop in Orlando on October 17, 2019. Reservations need to be made, as lunch is provided. Also, clarification was made about a date change for the Face to Face Meeting. The Face to Face Meeting is for only the Board members of the Area 3 Board, not our local LSWCD Board members. The local Board is welcome to attend, but not as a voting member.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**City of Tavares:** “Green Leap,” by Dr. Mark Hostetler, from the University of Florida. Sharon Redding reminded the Board that we were invited by Traci Anderson, of the City of Tavares. The event will be on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 2-3:-00 pm at the Tavares Public Safety Complex. Banks Helfrich will attend.

**Board Comments**

Banks Helfrich would like the LSWCD to have a photo contest on Facebook—he has checked and this is allowed. The contest would draw awareness and attention to LSWCD. Richard Darby, First Vice President of AFCD, said that Duval County does this and it has been successful. The Board will discuss in November.

**Adjourn:** No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm and the next meeting will take place on November 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

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