

**Minutes
Regular Meeting**

Collier Soil and Water Conservation District
14700 Immokalee Road, Naples, Florida 34120

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order April 20, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

Supervisor Dennis Vasey, Chairman; Supervisor Clarence Tears, Vice Chairman; Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer, and Supervisor Rob Griffin were present.

Also present was Agricultural MIL Supervisor/District Administrator Mark Siverling, District Conservationist Bob Beck, and Agricultural MIL Technician Paul Hayden.

I. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Introduction of Guests: None.

III. Agenda: No changes made.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Tears. *Vote: All yea.*

IV. Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes for February 2017 were Emailed for review.

Motion to approve the February 2017 Minutes: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Tears. *Vote: All yea.*

V. Public Comment: None.

VI. Reports:

a. Mr. Beck reported that there are four pre-approved Environmental Quality Incentive Program contracts in Collier County this year, and four Regional Conservation Partnership Program applicants. The federal hiring freeze has ended, but he is not sure how the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will fill his positions when he retires.

b. Mr. Rasiwala Emailed the financial report approved for Audit.

c. Mr. Siverling, Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) Supervisor, reported that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Big Cypress Basin are both working on next year's Mobile Irrigation Lab contracts. He reported that the NRCS would be giving some filing cabinets to our field office.

VII. Old Business:

a. Supervisor Griffin said that he spoke with the Supervisor of Elections about filling the vacant seat. He recommended to the board that outreach through the local newspaper can bring qualified candidates to be appointed by the board. He will present his newspaper plan at the May 18, 2017, Regular Meeting.

b. Chairman Vasey and Supervisor Richie, Treasurer, announced that they would meet at Bank of America after the meeting to add Supervisor Richie to the account signatures authorization. Former Supervisor Reichert was not on the approved signatures list.

c. Mr. Siverling said that auditing firm had completed the annual audit of Mobile Irrigation Lab records. An auditor visited the office and physically inspected all of the requested files.

d. Supervisor Griffin detailed his visit to the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD) area meeting in Palm Beach on the 13th. It involved farm tours of sugarcane and rice and a demonstration of driverless tractors. He reported that there were about 35 in attendance, with several younger members. Lake Okeechobee issues were discussed, including sheet flow and septic tanks. The AFCD Annual Meeting will be held in Ocala on July 20-22. Supervisor Griffin felt that the meeting was worthwhile.

VIII. New Business:

a. Mr. Beck delivered the NRCS guidance on Civil Rights by distributing the written materials and explaining it verbally.

b. Chairman Vasey listed committees with CSWCD representation:

(1) Committees with Soil and Water Conservation District membership:

- Floodplain Management Planning Committee
- Comprehensive Watershed Improvement Program Technical Advisory Ad Hoc Committee
- Freedom Park Wetland Advisory Committee

- Inlet Marking Program Education & Outreach Program Collier County Pollution Control
- Sea Level Rise Sub-Committee
- Stormwater Retention Area Manager—7th Avenue NW—Growth Management Division

(2) Civic Involvement:

- Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Association
- HOA/ROA Stormwater Presentations and Ecological Pond Management Presentations

The Purpose of Committee Membership is to promote District activities consistent with Florida Statute Chapter 582 that benefit the citizens of Collier County, who live in the Big Cypress Basin, an isolated basin, with 99% of groundwater originating as surface water. As the wet season progresses, the ground becomes full of water and not able to absorb more runoff.

- c. A new Board Secretary was not appointed at this time.
- d. Mr. Siverling discussed the process for producing the meeting minutes, where the supervisors comment by Email and vote on the draft at the following meeting.
- e. Mr. Siverling recommended that the District obtain an additional Bank of America Visa card for Paul Hayden, the new employee, for purchasing fuel and other items related to the Mobile Irrigation Lab operations.

Motion to approve a Visa credit card for Paul Hayden: Chairman Vasey; second, Supervisor Richie. *Vote: All yea.*

- f. Motion to pay the tax lien on property acquired by the District in the Benfield Management Area (\$1,219.26 to the Collier County Tax Collector, 3291 E Tamiami Trl, Naples, FL 34112-5758): Chairman Vasey; second, Supervisor Griffin. *Vote: all yea.*
- g. Handbooks: Mr. Siverling presented the new Volunteer Handbook for the District. Supervisor Tears recommended that the approval for volunteers to interact with the press should come from the Administrator, not the Board of Supervisors.
- h. Mr. Siverling presented the Volunteer Section of the Employee Handbook.

Motion to approve the Volunteer Handbook with Supervisor Tears' change, and to approve the addition of the Volunteer Section of the Employee Handbook: Chairman Vasey; second, Supervisor Richie. *Vote: all yea.*

- i. Chairman Vasey listed several ongoing projects the District is monitoring: Best Management Practices; Golden Gate Area and Immokalee Area Master Plans; Naples City beach renourishment, Conservation Collier land acquisition, code enforcement processes, septic tank inspections, and water utility proposals, and the Transfer of Development Rights Program.

IX. Communications:

- The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee sent a letter asking for updates on the 2013 Audit Report. Chairman Vasey will present a draft at the May 18, 2017, Regular Meeting.
- Chairman Vasey said that the new recycling center in Golden Gate should reduce dumping in canals and roadsides.

X. Public Comments: None

XI. Next Regular Meeting: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Collier County Extension Building, 14700 Immokalee Road, Naples, FL 34120, May 18, 2017.

XII. Motion to adjourn the meeting: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Griffin. *Vote: All yea.*