

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting**

Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)  
50 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, Florida 34145

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order November 16, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Supervisor Dennis Vasey, Chairman; Supervisor Clarence Tears, Vice Chairman; Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer, and Supervisor James Lang were present.

Also present was Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting District Conservationist (DC) Howard Harrison, Agricultural MIL Supervisor/District Administrator Mark Siverling, Urban MIL Supervisor James Nikolich, and Agricultural MIL Technician Paul Hayden.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Introduction of Guests:** Jeff Poteet, General Manager of the City of Marco Island; Don Manley, a writer for *Coastal Breeze*

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve the Agenda: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Vasey. *Vote: All yea.*

**IV. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:** Minutes for October 17, 2017.

Supervisor Tears amended the October minutes to reflect that he was unable to attend the meeting due to the memorial service for Warren "Tim" Howard in Labelle.

Motion to approve the amended October 2017 Minutes: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Richie. *Vote: All yea.*

**V. Public Comments:** None

**VI. Reports:**

a. District Conservationist Report: Howard Harrison said that the last day for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) sign-up is tomorrow, but he hasn't received many applicants from Collier County. The program is largely unchanged from the 2014 Farm Bill. The Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) the current major program, and Collier County made a submission that just missed the deadline – they are working on an extension in case there is funding available. Mr. Harrison also said that he spoke with County personnel and found that they are expecting another 9-12 months before the CSWCD office is useable again.

b. Financial Report: Mr. Stout, Mark K. Stout, CPA PL, Emailed the financial report.

Motion to approve the financial report for audit, Supervisor Vasey; second, Supervisor Lang. *Vote: All yea.*

c. District Status Report: Mark Siverling said that area groves are still reeling from the impacts of Hurricane Irma, which include flooding, fruit loss, and tree damage. The Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Laboratory (MIL) has only been to small groves since the hurricane but will catch up on annual goals next quarter. James Nikolich said that the Urban MIL received payment from Big Cypress Basin for last quarter's work, but doesn't yet have a Purchase Order for the current year.

d. Community Outreach: Mr. Siverling discussed his attendance at a Citrus Seminar at the University of Florida Research Center in Immokalee regarding Citrus Health Management Areas.

**VII. Old Business:**

a. Employee Health Insurance: The state has not responded to CSWCD's letter about the availability for District employees to join a state health insurance plan.

b. Budget Update: Mr. Siverling said that he would review the 2017-2018 budget with bookkeeper Mark Strout to streamline the process of accounting for the new Ag. MIL contract structure.

**VIII. New Business:**

a. FDACS Reimbursement Process: Supervisor Vasey announced that the documents had been submitted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for the Ag. MIL reimbursement. This is the first quarter under the new contract, and it is a learning process.

b. Temporary Office Location: Mr. Siverling said that the temporary CSWCD office in North Fort Myers is working well, and the CSWCD staff is equipped by NRCS with computers, printers, and phones.

- c. MIL Tools: Mr. Siverling distributed a sample report for a grower showing how the Ag. MIL uses tools such as the ultrasonic flow meter, the camera, and the GPS device.
- d. Hurricane Debris Removal: Supervisor Lang said that hurricane debris stacked along roadways is a fire risk, and the CSWCD should encourage Collier County to warn residents. Supervisor Vasey will write a letter.

IX. **Communications:**

- a. None

X. **Public Comments:** None

XI. **Next Regular Meeting:** December 21, 2017, at the Golden Gate Community Center

XII. **Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 AM: Supervisor Vasey; second, Supervisor Richie. *Vote: All yea.*