

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting**

Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)  
735 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Naples, Florida 34102

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order February 15, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Supervisor Dennis Vasey, Chairman; Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer, Supervisor James Lang, Secretary, and Supervisor Robert Griffin were present.

Also present were 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:** Mr. Bob Westbrook, of Naples and Ohio

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**IV. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:** Minutes for December 2017.

Motion to approve the December 21, 2017 Minutes: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Vasey. *Vote: All yea.*

**V. Public Comments:** Mr. Westbrook briefly discussed water issues in Ohio and Florida.

**VI. Reports:**

a. District Conservationist Report: The acting DC was unable to attend.

b. Financial (written report): The bookkeeper was not able to produce the financial report in time for the meeting.

c. District Status Report: Mark Siverling said that the Agricultural and Urban Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) are getting out in the field and catching up on evaluations after last year's hurricane. He reported that NRCS and Collier County staff are in negotiations about storing the District's equipment in the damaged office building. Mr. Nikolich reported that he has been helping repair the building's water system and keeping a good working relationship with the University of Florida staff.

d. Community Outreach: Mr. Siverling said that the MILs are involved with the Greenscape Alliance and attend the monthly Citrus Seminars at the UF Research Center in Immokalee.

**VII. Old Business:**

a. FDACS Reimbursement Process: Mr. Siverling reported that he and CPA Mark Stout have been working with FDACS to supply the needed documentation for the work performed July-September 2017 and October-December 2017. FDACS has not asked for more documents, but payment has not yet been received.

b. Supervisor Vasey reported that he has been in contact with Representative Passidomo regarding the inclusion of Special Districts in the proposed expansion of the state insurance program.

**VIII. New Business:**

a. Wildfire Awareness: Chairman Vasey and Supervisor Griffin led a discussion about funding fire protection in unincorporated areas.

b. Employee Handbook Update: Mr. Siverling reported that the Employee Handbook needs to be updated to reflect the new twice-monthly pay schedule. Chairman Vasey said that the language can be updated without a Board vote. Mr. Hayden expressed concern about the number of working days differing from year to year, and Mr. Vasey said that a separate check can be cut to correct any year-end discrepancies.

c. Election of Officers: Motion to approve the following Officers:

Chairman: Dennis Vasey

Vice-Chairman: Clarence Tears

Secretary: James Lang

Treasurer: Nancy Richie

*Vote: All yea*

- d. AFCD Annual Meeting: Supervisor Richie and Supervisor Griffin led a discussion about any possible benefits of involvement with the Association of Florida Conservation Districts. Supervisor Griffin volunteered to attend the next Area Meeting in Labelle.

IX. **Communications:**

- a. State Insurance Group letter

- X. **Public Comments:** Chairman Vasey reviewed the proposed Stormwater Utility Fee and discussed the lack of project prioritizations in the County.

Mr. Westbrook asked about the possibility of sinkholes in Southwest Florida, and briefly discussed water issues in Florida.

- XI. **Next Regular Meeting:** March 15, 2017, at a location on Marco Island, with a possible speaker on the topic of Aquifer Storage Recovery wells.

- XII. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 10:15 AM: Supervisor Vasey; second, Supervisor Richie. *Vote: All yea.*