

**Minutes
Regular Meeting**

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order March 15, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. Supervisor Dennis Vasey, Chairman; Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer, and Supervisor James Lang, Secretary were present.

Motion to approve Supervisor Clarence Tears, Vice Chairman to participate via teleconference: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Richie. Vote: All yea.

Supervisor Clarence Tears, Vice Chairman participated via teleconference.

Also present were Agricultural MIL Supervisor/District Administrator Mark Siverling, Urban MIL Supervisor James Nikolich, Agricultural MIL Technician Paul Hayden, and District Conservationist Howard Harrison.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Introduction of Guests: Mr. Michael Rehtin of Key Marco and Dr. Bruce Weinstein

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

IV. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: for February 2018.

Motion to approve the February 15, 2018 Minutes: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Lang. *Vote: All yea.*

V. Public Comments: Mr. Rehtin introduced himself.

VI. Reports:

a. District Conservationist Report: Mr. Harrison reported that Farm Bill programs are on hold while the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) distributes emergency funds. He reported that the General Services Administration has cancelled the lease on the damaged office building in Naples and is looking for new office space. Mr. Harrison also said that the Naples District Conservationist position will not be advertised unless it is collocated with a Farm Services Agency office (there is one in North Fort Myers). He said that the current NRCS contracts in Lee and Collier Counties include cow-calf operations and high tunnels.

b. Financial (written report): The financial report was provided by Mr. Mark Stout, CPA.

c. District Status Report: Mark Siverling said that the Agricultural and Urban Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) are catching up on evaluations after getting behind in yearly goals during last year's hurricane. Mr. Nikolich reported that he is recording large water savings on Marco Island, after teaching homeowners how not to overwater. Funding for the urban Mobile Irrigation Lab for next year has not been confirmed.

Motion to approve the Chairman to contact Big Cypress Basin and inquire about continued MIL funding: Supervisor Richie; second, Supervisor Lang. *Vote: All yea.*

d. Community Outreach: Supervisor Richie offered to write articles about CSWCD activities for publication in local newspapers, and asked all present to Email ideas to District Administrator Mark Siverling.

VII. Old Business:

a. FDACS Reimbursement Process: Mr. Siverling reported that though invoices and documents have been submitted for the July-September and October-December 2017 quarters, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has still not approved payments. District Administrator Mark Siverling presented a letter for approval to the Office of Agriculture Water Policy asking for an update on the status of payments.

Motion to approve the letter to the the Office of Agriculture Water Policy: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Vasey. *Vote: All yea.*

b. Supervisor Vasey drafted a letter to the Governor's office in support of wetland protection, from the CSWCD board.

Motion to approve the letter to the governor: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Vasey.
Vote: All yea.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Dr. Bruce Weinstein gave an oral presentation about aquifer storage recovery (ASR) wells and their use in Florida, especially for Marco Island.
- b. Employee Handbook Update: Mr. Siverling reported that he is updating the language in the Handbook to reflect the new pay interval of 26 periods vice 28.
- c. Association of Florida Conservation Districts Area Meeting: Mr. Siverling gave information about the upcoming AFCD Area meeting in Labelle on May 10.

IX. **Communications:** None

X. **Public Comments:** None

XI. **Next Regular Meeting:** April 19, 2018, at 9:00 AM. Location to be determined.

XII. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn: Supervisor Vasey; second, Supervisor Lang. *Vote: All yea.*