

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)
Golden Gate Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples, Florida 34116

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order April 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

Jeff Schmidt, Area Conservationist, participated via teleconference.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Introduction of Guests: None

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

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

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

V. Public Comments: None

VI. Reports:

- a. District Conservationist Report: Mr. Harrison distributed and explained the United States Department of Agriculture anti-discrimination policy, and spoke about some of the key Natural Resource Conservation Service concerns, such as the make-up of Special District boards and the Freedom of Information Act.
- b. Financial (written report): The financial report was provided by Mr. Mark Stout, CPA.
- c. District Status Report: Mr. Siverling and Mr. Nikolich said that the Agricultural and Urban Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) met yearly goals after Hurricane Irma disruption.
- d. Community Outreach: Supervisor Tears and Chairman Vasey reported that they have both done public presentations this month. Mr. Siverling added that he taught the Irrigation module of the Landscape Best Management Practices course at Rookery Bay NERR.

VII. Old Business:

- a. FDACS Reimbursement Process: Mr. Siverling reported that after receiving the letter from the CSWCD, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services sent two contract personnel to the District office to work out problems with invoices. Mr. Siverling has reformatted the invoice to fit FDACS requirements, and is waiting for approval of payments for the last three quarters.
- b. AFCD Meetings: Mr. Siverling announced that the next area meeting of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts will take place in LaBelle on May 10, 2018.
- c. Office Location Update: Mr. Jeff Schmidt, Area Conservationist, reported that NRCS in Florida is currently short-staffed, and there are no immediate plans to replace the full-time District Conservationist in the Naples Field Office. Even so, there are circumstances whereby the NRCS may keep a Naples office in coordination with the CSWCD. If the CSWCD wants to continue in partnership with NRCS, the General Services Administration will continue to look for suitable office space in Collier County.

The Board directed the Chairman to ascertain the status of repairs to the IFAS Building as a part of the NRCS "services in kind" waiver submission.

- d. Insurance Update: Chairman Vasey said that he has been in contact with Representative Passidomo regarding the possibility of opening state health insurance pools to include Special Districts.

VII. New Business:

- a. Outreach articles: Chairman Vasey distributed a flyer of information that he compiled for the Big Cypress Basin.
- b. Elections Update: Mr. Siverling reminded the Board that Groups 1, 3, and 5 will be on the November ballot.
- c. Urban MIL Funding Discussion: Supervisor Vasey and Mr. Nikolich reported that talks are under way to split funding of the Urban MIL between the Big Cypress Basin and the City of Naples, with possible additional evaluations from the City of Cape Coral (since Lee County does not have Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab services).

VIII. Communications: None

IX. Public Comments: None

X. Next Regular Meeting: May 17, 2018, at 9:00 AM. Golden Gate Community Center.

XI. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Tears. *Vote: All yea.*