

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 July 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer; Supervisor James Lang; 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 Carlos Torres.

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 May 2018.

Motion to approve the May 2018 Minutes: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Richie.

Vote: All yea.

V. Public Comments: None

VI. Reports:

a. District Conservationist Report: Mr. Carlos Torres is the new acting District Conservationist (DC) for Collier County for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). His contact information is:

4505 George Blvd
Sebring, FL 33875
(863) 385-7853 Ext 3
Carlos.Torres@fl.usda.gov

He plans to spend a couple of days each week at the Collier/Lee office, working on Emergency Watershed Program projects that are in the approval process. Mr. Howard Harrison is still helping finish up some Collier NRCS projects that he was working on as acting DC.

b. Financial (written report): Provided by Mark Stout, CPA.

c. District Status Report: Mr. Siverling reported that FDACS has not paid the CSWCD for Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) work done for January-March quarter. The last two invoices of the calendar year 2017 have now been paid. The Agricultural MIL has completed the evaluations for the April-June quarter and is preparing an invoice. Mr. Nikolich reported that he is catching up on evaluations and expects to make the annual goal by September.

d. Community Outreach: Supervisor Richie continues to work on conservation-related articles, but has been sailing on the high seas and has nothing to report at this time.

VII. Old Business:

a. Office location update: Mr. Siverling said that the Naples office has been emptied and all office furniture and materials put into storage. Mr. Torres reported that NRCS has not posted the position of DC in the Naples office, but may still do so. Area Conservationist Jeff Schmidt has sent the office bidding information, showing what the NRCS is looking for in Collier County. Supervisor Griffin is communicating with Collier County facilities staff about the possibility of the CSWCD re-inhabiting the former office space (when it is renovated, following hurricane damage).

b. Urban MIL funding: Mr. Nikolich said that the Big Cypress Basin has paid for Urban MIL services for last quarter. The Urban MIL is currently seeking additional funding partnerships, possibly with the County or City of Marco Island. The current purchase order lasts until September.

c. Association of Florida Conservation Districts – Supervisor Griffin will attend the AFCD Annual Meeting at his own expense. Vote to participate as a District in AFCD membership was tabled until the next meeting.

VII. New Business:

- a. Replacement of Chairman: Supervisor Clarence Tears is the Vice Chairman and will chair the next board meeting.
- b. Recognition for outgoing Chairman: District staff recommended getting a plaque for retired Chairman Vasey to recognize his years of service to the CSWCD. Discussion tabled until next meeting.
- c. Citrus Expo 2018: The Citrus Expo will be held on August 15-16, 2018 at the Lee Civic Center in North Fort Myers. Sign-up details can be found on the Expo website: www.citrusexpo.net.

VIII. Communications: None

IX. Public Comments: None

X. Next Regular Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for August 23, to be approved by e-mail vote.

XI. Adjourn: The quorum was broken at 9:52 AM.