

**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 December 20, 2018, at 9:00 AM  
Supervisor Clarence Tears, Chairman; Supervisor Nancy Richie, Treasurer; Supervisor James Lang; and  
Supervisor Rob Griffin were present.

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

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Introduction of Guests:** Charlene Meeks and Kaylee Durrance of the Association of Florida  
Conservation Districts (AFCD)

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to amend the agenda to conduct the Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab workshop after the regular  
Meeting, Supervisor Griffin; Second, Supervisor Lang.

*Vote: All yea.*

**IV. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:** for November 2018.

Motion to approve the November 2018 Minutes: Supervisor Tears; second, Supervisor Richie.

*Vote: All yea.*

**V. Public Comments:** None

**VI. Reports:**

a. District Conservationist (DC) Report: Acting DC Mr. Carlos Torres reported that the new DC for  
Lee and Collier Counties, Mitchell Aman, will start on January 7, 2019. The Natural Resources  
Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting program applications until December 21 for the latest  
batch of conservation cost-share programs.

b. Financial (written report): Provided by Mark Stout, CPA. Chairman Tears has met with Mr. Stout  
to update the 2018-2019 budget.

c. District Status Report: Mark Siverling reported that the Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) is  
slightly behind track to reach goals for the current quarter, but has enough scheduled next  
quarter to catch up. Mr. Nikolich said that the Urban MIL has been getting many requests for  
evaluations even though there is no funding this quarter.

d. Community Outreach: Mr. Siverling said that the staff has participated in agriculture seminars at  
the University of Florida Research Center in Immokalee, and helped at the Envirothon high school  
science competition at Lakes Park.

**VII. Old Business:**

a. Urban MIL funding: During the Urban MIL Funding Workshop, an idea for a grant application for  
another conservation program was reviewed.

Motion to apply for the grant for an Urban Agriculture program, Chairman Tears; Second,  
Supervisor Richie.

*Vote: All yea.*

Motion to move District employee James Nikolich from the Urban MIL to the Agricultural MIL,  
Supervisor Lang; Second, Supervisor Richie.

*Vote: All yea.*

b. Office location update: Mr. Torres reported that the NRCS has put out a bid proposal for office  
space and is in communication with Collier County about re-occupying the building at 14700  
Immokalee Road. Mr. Siverling reported that if the Mobile Irrigation Lab can't move back to the  
building Collier County, it can either operate out of Lee County in coordination with NRCS, or

request office funding from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

- c. Markley Land Donation: Written assurance of a clear title and paid taxes was provided by the donors of the Markley property. Motion to approve acceptance of the Markley land donation: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Richie.

*Vote: All yea.*

**VII. New Business:**

- a. New Officers Procedures: According to the Supervisor's Handbook provided by FDACS, new officers should be chosen in January when the newly elected Supervisors are sworn in.

**VIII. Communications:** None

**IX. Public Comments:** Ms. Meeks invited the Supervisors to attend the AFCD Annual Meeting from July 11-13 in Ocala. Ms. Durrance offered for the AFCD to provide website building and hosting to the CSWCD.

**X. Next Regular Meeting:** Scheduled for January 16, 2018, at the Golden Gate Community Center.

**XI. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn the meeting: Supervisor Lang; second, Supervisor Griffin.

*Vote: All yea.*