

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)  
IFAS Extension Center  
14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120

A regular board meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order on May 18, 2023 at 9:07 a.m.

Conor Egan, James Nikolich, Meghan Foos, Rob Griffin, Heather Cleckler, and Jillian Sanchez were in attendance

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Approval of Agenda** Two items, a Christmas bonus for Mr. James Nikolich and having June board meeting in Marco Island, were added under new business. Supervisor Meghan Foos motioned to approve the agenda. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

**III. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes** Supervisor Meghan Foos motioned to approve the minutes. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

**IV. Public Comments** no public comments

**V. Reports**

**a. District Conservationist Report:** Mr. Conor Egan reported for Santos Colberg. Mr. Egan gave updated totals for EQIP Classic Applications, CSP Applications, Emergency EQIP Applications, and total of active EQIP and CSP contracts in Lee and Collier counties. NRCS is currently taking applications for 2024 EQIP and CSP. Mr. Egan also informed the board that the latest Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will include EQIP and CSP with focus on climate smart agriculture and forestry. Florida specifically will focus energy efficiency on stationary equipment/facilities and reducing atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide through carbon storage. Mr. Egan also stated that most of the funding for Emergency EQIP has been obligated and is expected to be 100% obligated by the end of July. The Ft. Myers office obligated 40 applications totaling \$990,074.11 and has paid \$617,504.81. Mr. Egan let the board know that they will have an intern working with them over the summer (June-August) to help with day-to-day operations.

**b. Financials:** Supervisor Meghan Foos motioned to approve the April 2023 financial report. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

**c. District Status Report:** Mr. James Nikolich reported 22 evaluations completed in April in Lee and Hendry county consisting of mainly nurseries and vegetable farms. He has 10 evaluations completed so far in May and 6 scheduled before the end of May. The LWC MIL invoice was approved by FDACS for \$7,109.07 for April. Waiting for this check to arrive. The March Invoice check was deposited in the amount of \$8867.85. Mr. Nikolich attended the ICC Meeting in Citra. He also stated new contracts are expected to be created and received by July to sign with hopes for a cost of living increase and reduction in evaluation requirements.

**d. Chairman Report:** Supervisor Rob Griffin shared that he and Supervisor Meghan Foos attended the Area 4 meeting and that the state annual meeting is coming up in Gainesville Sept. 26-27. There will be a landowners' meeting in Sebring on June 13. He stated that the financial report is due June 30th and that we have already sent ours in. He also shared information on an interesting cost share project for barn owls that he learned of at the Area meeting.

**e. Secretary Report:** Supervisor Heather Cleckler referred to meeting minutes. She also shared that she is officially a board member.

**f. Treasurer's Report:** Supervisor Meghan Foos reports that financials are in good standing and that we have renewed the tag for the company truck.

**VI. Old Business** The discussion of switching banks has been deferred

**VII. New Business**

a. OPPAGA has contacted CSWCD and they are reviewing 2020-2022. We have completed and sent in our survey.

b. The board discussed and agreed to conducting the June 2023 board meeting at the Florida Cattlemens' Association in Marco Island.

c. Supervisor Meghan Foos motioned to give Mr. James Nikolich a \$1000.00 Christmas bonus for all of his hard work. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

**VIII. Communications** Miss Jillian Sanchez informed the board that the payment for her oath to office has not yet been received. Supervisor Heather Cleckler will contact the office to make sure payment is received. Supervisor Heather Cleckler also recommended someone for the board and will invite them to the June 2023 meeting.

**IX. Next Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting:** June 22, 2023 at 10:00am at Marco Marriott Resort

**X. Adjourn** Supervisor Heather Cleckler motions to adjourn. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.