

Regular Meeting Minutes
Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)
October 19, 2023
9:00 am
14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120

A regular board meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order on October 19, 2023 at 9:06 am

James Nikolich, Rob Griffin, Heather Cleckler, Jillian Sanchez, and Jess Morris were in attendance

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda Supervisor Heather Cleckler motioned to approve the agenda. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez seconds.

III. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes Supervisor Heather Cleckler motioned to approve the minutes. Supervisor Jess Morris seconds.

IV. Reports

A. District Conservationist Report: Mr. Santos Colberg was not present for the regular meeting but did send packets of updated information. The packet stated that the 2024 Fiscal Year began on October 1, 2023. Main priority is getting new applications (EQIP, CSP, Other Programs) by November 17, 2023 deadline. In Collier County there are 15 EQIP and 1 CSP applicants. In Lee County there are 30 EQIP and 8 CSP applicants. Next year-round of funding is February-June 2024. NRCS budget will duplicate this year at approximately 60 million. Mr. Colberg also informed the supervisors about the SWFL Small Farmer Network meeting on Nov. 3rd and sent a pamphlet about the Panther Depredation Compensation Program.

B. Financials: a financial report was not yet provided and will be emailed to all board members as soon as it is available.

C. District Status Report: Mr. James Nikolich reported that 14 MIL evaluations were completed for September. The August Invoice has been deposited for \$9,502.56. The September invoice was approved for \$7,719.10 and sent for payment. For October he has completed 7 evaluations, 4 field visits completed and 3 more scheduled. Mr. Nikolich also informed the board the NACD dues are due and will be the same amount as last year. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez made a motion to pay the NACD dues. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds. Chairman Rob Griffin inquired about MIL truck made a suggestion to look into a new truck for the future.

D. Chairman Report: Chairman Rob Griffin discussed topics from the AFCD state meeting held in September in Gainesville, FL. He mentioned the new website offered to all Soil and Water boards. He discussed an upcoming meeting about changes to by-laws. Chairman Griffin also strongly suggested that all board members participate in an ethics training and training on sunshine state laws by the end of the year. He also reviewed that the Regional AFCD will be held in Florida (Gainesville) in June 2024. He also stated that board members have not yet been reimbursed for state meeting attendance. He informed the board that he signed up to participate in the DEP land management review that will start next year. Chairman Griffin also suggested that our next board meeting be held at Cracker Barrel and then follow with a field trip to our current properties.

E. Secretary Report: Supervisor Heather Cleckler reviewed that no meeting minutes were completed in September since the board members were in attendance at the AFCD State Meeting.

F. Treasurer Report: Supervisor Meghan Foos was not in attendance therefore a treasury report was not provided. She did ask Supervisor Heather Cleckler to inquire with the board about helping fund a trailer for the upcoming Collier County AgVentures. The topic has been deferred to a later date.

G. Supervisor Report: Supervisor Jillian Sanchez inquired how the board can more actively participate/get involved in the WERP project affecting South/Southwest Florida.

H. Supervisor Report: Supervisor Jess Morris informed the board that she has received her certificate as a CSWCD board member.

V. Old Business

A. Discussions of switching banks has been deferred.

VI. New Business

A. There is a big push for Urban BMP grants with NRCS and Chairman Griffin suggested maybe needing a facilitator to knock on doors to spread the word about BMP grants available for urban farmers/gardeners.

VII. Communications

No new communications were discussed

VIII. Next Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting: Next board meeting will be held Nov. 16, 2023 at 9:00am at Cracker Barrel in Naples on Collier Blvd. to be followed by a field trip of Current properties.

IX. Adjourn meeting adjourned at 10:27am