

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

A regular monthly board meeting of the board of supervisors was called to order on January 18th, 2024 at 9:02 am

Present: Rob Griffin, James Nikolich, Jess Morris, Meghan Foos, Heather Cleckler, and Santos Colberg. Jillian Sanchez was absent due to travel.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Approval of Agenda** Supervisor Heather Cleckler makes a motion to approve the agenda. Supervisor Jess Morris seconds.

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

**IV. Reports**

**a. District Conservationist's Report:** Santos Colberg reports that there are 94 active EQIP applications (Collier-15, Lee-79) and 22 active CSP applications (Collier-3, Lee-19). Mr. Colberg also informed the board that NRCS is currently working on 2022 deferred applications and 2023 applications. Deadline was Nov. 23, 2023. He reported The priority funding programs as listed: EQIP- high tunnels with 7 active applications (Collier-2, Lee-5), EQIP IRA, EQIP IRA ACT NOW with 7 active applications (Collier-2, Lee-5), EQIP Classic, and CSP & CSP IRA. Mr. Colberg also summarized this year's NRCS funding reporting a near 40% increase in funding with more than \$67 million available to conservation practices ad initiatives. Mr. Colberg also informed the board of a possible opportunity of Bio-Char for the board. Supervisor Meghan Foos suggested a possible farm tour for the board to see some fo the current EQIP projects being implemented locally.

**b. Financials:** Both November 2023 and December 2023 financial statements were provided. Supervisor Meghan Foos made a motion to approve the report but with questions about the board's assets and still paying monthly expenses. Supervisor Heather Cleckler approves. The board discussed what is needed for the new trailer and discussed insurance coverage of \$15,000. Supervisor Jess Morris made a motion to approve a \$15,000 replacement value for insurance of the trailer, approval to pay for plate, and the use of the credit card to pay for accessories upon pick up of the trailer. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.



c. District Status Report: Mr. James Nikolich informed the board that the November invoice has been deposited for \$6722.24. 14 MIL evaluations were completed for December 2023. As of the meeting date he has completed 12 evaluations in January (9 with pumps in operation, 3 not running). The December invoice has been approved in the amount of \$9063.24. He also informed the board that FDACS is working on the SOW and SOP for the new contract extension to the existing contract.

d. Chairman's Report: Chairman Rob Griffin informed the board that we are all up for re-election in the next election cycle. He also informed the board of a House Bill that is being proposed to eliminate SWD in the state of Florida.

e. Secretary's Report: Supervisor Heather Cleckler defers report due to her absence at the last board meeting.

f. Treasurer's Report: Supervisor Meghan Foos informs the board of her plans to pick up the new trailer next week. She also asked to board to volunteer in the upcoming AgVentures in Collier County.

g. Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Jillian Sanchez was not in attendance

h. Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Jess Morris inquired about Form 1.

## **V. Old Business**

a. The discussion to switch banks has been deferred.

b. OPPAGA is continuing to conduct audits throughout the state

c. Chairman Griffin reminded the board that we need Ethics Training. Supervisor Heather Cleckler made a motion that board members research possible ethics classes, get approval of class from Charlene Meeks, and go ahead and complete the course. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.

## **VI. New Business**

a. The board must create a Strategic Plan of Work. Supervisor Heather Cleckler makes a motion to have everyone create a plan and we will vote on it at our next board meeting. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.

b. District Conservationist Santos Colberg made a suggestion of hiring an NRCS employee to specifically focus on Collier County. The board agrees to investigate the possibility of hiring another NRCS employee.

**VII: Next board meeting will be held on February 15, 2024**



**VIII.** Supervisor Meghan Foos motions to adjourn meeting. Supervisor Jess Morris seconds. Meeting adjourned at 10:52am.

