

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 11/21/2017

Meeting Location: Bert Harris Ag. Center

Conf. Rm. # 1

Sebring, FL

FINAL - Approved 12/19/2017

Recorded by: Susie Bishop

Name	Title	Organization	Present
ATTENDANCE			
Scott Kirouac	Chairman	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Dr. John Causey	Vice-Chairman	Conservation District	y
Doug Deen	Secretary/Treasurer		Y
Pamela Fentress	Supervisor		Y
Steve Smith	Supervisor		N
Commissioner Jim Brooks	Liaison	Highlands Co. Board of County Commissioners	Y
Susie Bishop	Executive Director	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Carlos Torres	District Conserva.	USDA-NRCS	Y
Kayla Nickerson	FDACS-OAWP	Env. Spec. III	Y
Laurie Hurner	Highlands Co. Extension	Ex. Director	Y
<u>Other Attendees:</u> Ray Royce	Executive Director	HCCGA/HAC	Y

MEETING SCHEDULED START: 1:30P.M. CALL TO ORDER: @ 1:33 P.M.

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT READ BY CHAIRMAN

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented (Fentress/Causey) Unanimous Approval.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes -October 21, 2017 - Fentress asked

clarification in section VI.c. on page 3 - the economic impact calculator is not a %, it is a multiplier effect used. Motion made to approve minutes with one noted edit (Fentress/Causey). Unanimous Approval.

IV . Financial Activity

- a. Overview of Financial Reports - Bishop presented the bank reconciliations and financial reports for October. Most transactions have cleared the accounts at Harbor Community Bank, so Bishop will close those accounts within the month. Financial reports for October 2017 were presented with no questions. Motion made to accept the financial reports as presented (Fentress/Causey). Unanimous approval.
- b. General Fund Budget Amendments for FY 2016-17 - Bishop presented the budget to actual report and the final budget amendments for the FY 2016-17. There were only a few needed for end of year "clean-up". Motion to approve FY 2016-17 General Fund Budget Amendments as presented (Fentress/Deen).

V . Agency Partner Updates

- a. NRCS - Torres announced the deadline for FY 2018 program applications was last week. Any future applications will be submitted for FY 2019. The FSA disaster ECP program is accepting applications until Jan. 6, 2018. This program covers costs incurred for debris removal, rebuilding of fencing, replacement of water control structures and erosion from Hurricane Irma. The forage and livestock loss programs are also open for applications. Producers need to set up appointments with the FSA office in Okeechobee.
- b. FDACS - K. Nickerson shared a local meeting was held with the Cattlemen's Assoc. for review and comments on the revised Cow/Calf BMP Manual. Suggestions were submitted to Tallahassee and most were accepted. Currently FDACS-OAWP is conducting site visits for the Rural & Family Lands applicants. There are 3 applications in Highlands County. Quotes for BMP projects outside of the Northern Everglades are being accepted. There is about \$500,000.00 available for these projects. There is no Citrus Re-Establishment contract at this time, but it is anticipated to have one in the next fiscal year.
- c. MIL - Bishop reported the MIL in on schedule and has several evaluations booked to complete next week.
- d. Extension - Laurie Hurner reported D. Austin received a 5 year pin last month. The December 19 Ag Safety Day has approximately 50 participants registered and it is expected to have many more. Hurner & Bishop will work together to make this workshop a successful and beneficial event.
- e. HCBCC - Kirouac announced he will be adding a report from the HCBCC to the meeting agendas in the future. Commissioner Brooks reported the deadline for free dumping of debris in the County landfill is December 15 - for hurricane debris.

VI. Old Business

- a. Lake McCoy Project - Fentress reported crews are working on Lake McCoy now with an expected completion date of December 15.
- b. Ag Safety Day - No report - discussed under the Extension Report.

VII. New Business

- a. 2016-17 Annual Report - Bishop presented the Annual Report to the Board. Causey asked to have the number of FFA Chapters that received donations from HSWCD in next year's report. The one on one meetings with the County Commissioners are near completion. The meeting with the County Administrative team is not scheduled.

- b. 2018 Meeting Schedule - Bishop presented the Board Meeting schedule for the 2018 year. Since FEMA is still located in the Bert Harris Center the Dec. 19 meeting will be held downtown in the Engineering Department and the January 16, 2018 meeting will be held in Conf. Rm. 1 at the Bert Harris Center. No other edits to the schedule were made. Motion to approve the 2018 meeting schedule (Causey/Deen). Unanimous approval.
- c. Ag Angels Contribution - Bishop presented the request for a donation to Ag Angels Motion to donate \$1000.00 to the Ag Angels program (Fentress/Causey). Unanimous approval.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Bishop updated the Board on the status of the replacement of the Fisheating Creek structure. It is tabled by NRCS until summer of 2018.

A request by an engineering firm for HSWCD to be a sponsor for an Emergency Watershed Protection Program on a project for Triple G Ranch for repairs from damage from the Hurricane. Research of the responsibilities of the District as a sponsor was conducted by Bishop. She determined the District would be responsible for 25% of the project costs and many other tasks of the project. In the event any Board members were approached about the denial Bishop wanted them informed of the details.

Bishop updated the Board on the recent videos released by ARM-Animal Recovery Mission - regarding animal abuse on dairy farms. She shared what knowledge she had from the milk cooperative and farmers. Additional videos are expected to be released in coming weeks.

IX. Citizens Not on the Agenda

None

X. Supervisor Comments

Fentress - Reported she checked on LPE fence signs again and others were destroyed in hurricane along with HSWCD sign.

Causey - Announced Farm Credit will be establishing an office in Lake Placid soon. He asked if the Board would like to hear a presentation of their offerings at a future Board meeting. The consensus was yes, so Causey will arrange for the presentation.

Deen - Requested an agenda item for the December meeting to consider a contribution to the Avon Park FFA Alumni Association for the purchase of a new stock trailer. Discussion took place. Deen will gather more information and present his findings at the December meeting.

Kirouac - Expressed his gratitude to the Board for their continued support of the Ag Angels Project.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Scott Kirouac, Chairman

Doug Deen, Secretary

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
Complete Changing of Banking Institution	S, Bishop	December 1, 2017
Distribute electronic flyer announcing the Ag Safety Day to the Board and Ag Organizations. Complete preparations for Ag Safety Day.	S. Bishop & L. Hurner	December, 2017
Complete meetings with County Commissioners and Administration to present the Annual Report	S. Bishop	
Review agenda for the NACD Annual Meeting being held in January and determine attendance	S. Bishop	Dec. 1, 2017
Begin preparations for a BOS Workshop for updated Workplan	S. Bishop	January 2018
Continuance of managing of FDACS Contracts/Staff	S. Bishop	Ongoing
Arrange for field trips for the Board to tour completed cost share projects	S. Bishop	Nov. 1, 2017
Continue to monitor/facilitate the FECLOG & NRCS work on PL566 s structure	S. Bishop	Ongoing

