

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 12/19/2017

Meeting Location: Highlands County Engineering Dept.
 Training Room
 Sebring, FL

FINAL - Approved 01/16/2018

Recorded by: Susie Bishop

**MEETING SCHEDULED START: 3:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER: @ 3:01 P.M.
 PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT READ BY CHAIRMAN**

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		N
Steve Smith	Supervisor		Y
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	N
Kayla Nickerson	FDACS-OAWP	Env. Spec. III	Y
Laurie Hurner	Highlands Co. Extension	Ex. Director	Y

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Kirouac asked to add under New Business - Agenda Item VII.b County Line Drainage District to the Agenda. Motion to approve agenda with requested amendment (Causey/Deen) Unanimous Approval.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes -November 21, 2017 - Motion made to approve minutes as presented (Causey/Deen). Unanimous Approval.

IV . Financial Activity

- a. Overview of Financial Reports - Bishop presented the bank reconciliations and financial reports for November. All transactions have cleared the accounts at Harbor Community Bank and those accounts have been closed. Financial reports for November 2017 were presented with no questions. Motion made to accept the financial reports as presented (Smith/Causey) Unanimous approval.

V . Agency Partner Updates

- a. NRCS - Torres was not in attendance. Bishop informed the Board a new soil conversationalist has started to replace Aalia McClendon.
- b. FDACS - K. Nickerson reported the Citrus Re-Est. Contract will be amended to move the ending date to June 30, 2018 so producers can get their projects completed that were delayed due to Hurricane Irma. There will also be additional funds available for BMP Cost Share projects but no specifics are were available at meeting time. The self-assessment of BMPs will be launched in January 2018. Those producers with 5 or more NOIs will be the first to receive BMP Assessment notices. Producers will file online with FDACS field staff assisting them. Staff recently conducted field testing on the Cow/Calf BMP Manual. Several items of concern surfaced so the Manual was taken back to the committee for further revisions.
- c. MIL - Bishop reported the MIL in on schedule, 27 total evaluations completed and 5 more booked this week. This will put the MIL at 32 completed evaluations of the required 31 per quarter. Of these evaluations 23 were initials and 4 were follow-ups.
- d. Extension - Laurie Hurner reported the Extension office is fully staffed and very busy. Year end reports have been completed and submitted to UF. Ag Safety Day held earlier today was a huge success with 78 attendees. She gave a thank you for the HSWCD sponsoring the lunch. Hurner informed the Board the new regulations for WPS have not been implemented yet. New materials for this change were to be released in January 2018 but appears that goal won't be met. In an effort to keep people informed of the activities in the extension office a monthly report will be prepared and distributed beginning in early 2018. FEMA has closed the DRC at the Bert Harris Agriculture Center, but SBA will remain in the Conf. Rm. III until April.
- e. HCBCC - Commissioner Brooks reported the county has completed pick-up of Hurricane Debris. This was approx. a \$12 million expense to the county. FEMA funds are being sought to cover most of this non-budgeted expense. There were 889,000 cubic yards of debris collected equaling 19,662 loads total. At one time there were up to 90 crews working in the county on clean-up. Brooks reported a new Co. Administrator was hired - Randy Vosburg, the former Assistant Co. Administrator. A total of six applicants have applied for the County Attorney position and the commissioners will begin that process soon.

VI. Old Business

- a. Lake McCoy Project - Bishop reported the walk through was originally scheduled for December 20, but has been delayed for a few more weeks of work to be completed. Expectation is for project to be completed in January, 2018.

VII. New Business

- a. Board Workshop/Strategic Plan - Kirouac asked the pleasure of the Board to plan for a workshop with a facilitator to update the HSWCD work plan. Bishop will inquire with Dr. Hannah Carter from UF to come facilitate again on Feb. 1 or 2, 2018.
- b. CLDD - Bishop explained the background of the County Line Drainage District (CLDD). The FDACS-OAWP has asked HSWCD to be the managing agent of the

funds for this water storage/cleansing project being constructed in Charlotte County. Pros and Cons of accepting this project were discussed in detail. The OAWP is requesting HSWCD handle the bidding process for the contractor to do the project; the engineering and design is completed already. The project will be funded through an FCO Contract, so the admin. fee will be at 2%. Motion was made for Bishop to contact Contract Manager in Tallahassee to gather more information, inquire about an additional flat fee to cover costs with the bidding process and if the engineer or attorney for CLDD could manage the bidding process rather than HSWCD (Causey/Deen). This option will also speed up the project, which is the desire of the members of CLDD. She will report her findings back to the Board via email.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

- Bishop has registered for the NACD Annual Meeting in Nashville in late January.
- Supervisors were asked if they still had a desire for a field trip to see some completed projects. Consensus was no, do not plan any field trips.
- The Annual Report has been presented to the County Commissioners and will be presented to the new County Administrator tomorrow.
- Updates on the ARM movement against the dairy industry were shared.
- Bishop asked for approval for her to shop for a new computer to replace her original one which is over 5 years old. Motion made to approve granting authority to Bishop to use dollars in the contingency fund to purchase a new laptop and a back-up system (Causey/Smith). Unanimous approval.

IX. Citizens Not on the Agenda

None

X. Supervisor Comments

Causey - None

Smith - None

Deen - Requested a contribution from HSWCD to Avon Park FFA Alumni for the fundraising effort they are conducting for the APHS FFA can purchase a new stock trailer. Conflicting details were discussed. Deen will do further research and report back to Bishop. Motion made to contribute up to \$1000.00 to the AP FFA Alumni Association for the purchase of a new stock trailer for APHS-FFA if determined the funding is still needed. (Deen/Causey). Unanimous approval.

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

Hurner explained to the Board the new addition of Natural Resources to the Livestock Agent's position. She, the Livestock Agent, Taylor Davis and Bishop will work together to develop this program.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Scott Kirouac, Chairman

Doug Deen, Secretary

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
Seek additional information on the proposed HSWCD managing the CLDD water storage project in Charlotte County	S, Bishop	Dec. 27, 2017
Contact facilitator for the Board Strategic Planning Workshop	S. Bishop	Jan. 10, 2017
Purchase a new computer for ED	S. Bishop	Jan. 15, 2017
Continuance of managing of FDACS Contracts/Staff	S. Bishop	Ongoing
Continue to monitor/facilitate the FECLOG & NRCS work on PL566 s structure	S. Bishop	Ongoing