***Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District - Board of Supervisors***

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: 01/03/2023**

Meeting Location: HSWCD Conf. Room – Bert Harris Center

**APPROVED 2/21/2023**

Recorded by: Susie Bishop

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| **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Present** |
| **ATTENDANCE** |  |  |  |
| Dr. John Causey  Steve Smith  Doug Deen  Sara Sebring  T.J. Wohl  Scott Kirouac | Chairman  Vice-Chairman  Secretary/Treasurer  Supervisor  Supervisor  Liaison | Highlands Soil & Water  Conservation District  Highlands Co. Board of County Commissioners | Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  Y |
| Susie Bishop  Drew Pitts  Kayla Nickerson  Carlos Torres  Jerome Kaszubowski  Staci Deen | Executive Director  MIL Manager  BMP Tech.  District Cons.  Clerk of Court  Guest | Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  USDA-NRCS  Highlands County | Y  N  Y  Y  Y  Y |
|  |  |  |  |

**Meeting Scheduled Start: 3:00 P.M. Call to Order: @ 3:13 P.M.**

**Public Meeting Announcement Read by Chairman**

**Clerk of Court Jerome Kaszubowski performed the Oath of Office for each incoming Supervisor in this order: R. Douglas Deen, G. Stephen Smith, T.J. Wohl, J. Causey, DVM,**

**S. Sebring.**

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Approval of Agenda –** Motion to approve agenda as presented (Smith/Wohl) Unanimous Approval.
3. **Election of Officers -** Smith nominated J. Causey to serve as Chairman with second by Wohl. Smith amended his motion to nominate officers for year 2022 remain in same positions as officers for year 2023. Wohl made second to amended motion. Board Chairman is J. Causey, DVM, Vice-Chair is S. Smith, and Secretary/Treasurer is D. Deen. Unanimous approval.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes December 20, 2022 –** Motion made to approve the minutes as presented (Smith/Wohll). Unanimous Approval.
5. **Financial Activity**
6. **Overview & Approval of Financial Reports- December 2022 –** Due to timing of January meeting no financial reports were presented. No Action

**VI. Agency Partner Updates**

**a. FDACS –** Bishop reported Ag Commissioner Wilton Simpson was sworn in this

morning. New leadership for OAWP has not been named. Multiple vacant

positions with FDACS-OAWP and HSWCD were discussed. No Action

1. **MIL** –Bishop reported MIL Evaluations are above required amount. The MIL Technician position remains vacant with no applicants. MIL Manager Pitts will be moving to Texas in 2-3 months. No Action.
2. **NRCS** – Torres gave updates on Emergency Funding for Hurricane Ian damages, reminded that all producers need to keep their owner information current with USDA-FSA office in Okeechobee. Applications are being accepted for NRCS programs. No Action.
3. **HCBCC –** Kirouac reported County has several open positions. County is conducting drainage studies and clean up from Hurricane Ian is still being completed. No Action.

**VII**. **Old Business**

**NONE**

**VIII. New Business**

1. **Corrected Meeting Schedule for Year 2023**– Corrected 2023 Board Meeting Schedule was distributed. No Action.

**IX. Executive Director’s Report**

**Items presented:**

* Updated Board of Supervisors Information distributed.
* Follow-up on Lake June Floating Island Project – HSWCD is in no way connected to the project other than the County applying the $25,000 HSWCD contributed to County Natural Resource Dept. to this project.
* Bishop gave dates of State AFCD Annual Meeting, Feb. 6-8 2023 in Gainesville. NRCS will offer funding for Supervisors to attend.
* Bishop will meet with AFCD Board member next week to discuss options for future of SWCDs statewide.
* Bishop & possibly Nickerson will be presenting the Local Working Group meeting priority items to the USDA-NRCS State Technical Committee on Jan. 18 in Gainesville.
* CD Investment Broker, Tim Baker, will be attending the February 21, 2023 meeting.
* Annual Report financials were clarified and distributed.

**IX. Citizens Not on the Agenda – None**

**X. Supervisor Comments**

None

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Meeting Adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

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**John Causey, Chairman Doug Deen, Secretary**

**Post Meeting Action Items**

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| ***Action*** | ***Assigned To*** | ***Deadline*** |
| *Submit Oath of Office Statements for Board to Florida Dept. of State* | *S. Bishop* | *Jan. 6, 2023* |
| *Continue to work to purchase CD if rates meet criteria as set by Board* | *J. Causey & S. Bishop* | *Feb. 21, 2023* |
| *Present the Local Working Group Summary*  *to USDA-NRCS State Technical Committee* | *S. Bishop* | *Jan. 18, 2023* |
| *Schedule meetings with County Commissioners and Administrator to present the Annual Report* | *S. Bishop* | *Jan. 30, 2023* |
| *Register for State AFCD Annual Meeting* | *S. Bishop &*  *Supervisors* | *Jan. 15, 2023* |
| *Register for Lay of Land Conference* | *S. Bishop* | *Jan. 10, 2023* |
| *Advertise Vacant Positions* | *S. Bishop* | *Jan. 2023* |
| *Explore the creation of a new hybrid MIL/HSWCD Position with FDACS & BOS* | *S. Bishop* | *Until filled* |
| *Monitor need for a lobbyist* | *S. Bishop* | *Ongoing* |
| *Continue to monitor and distribute Hurricane Ian Recovery Programs* | *S. Bishop & Staff* | *Ongoing* |
| *Monitor SB 1078, SWCDs statewide* | *S. Bishop* | *Ongoing 2023* |
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