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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: 09/19/2023**

Meeting Location: HSWCD Conf. Room – Bert Harris Center

 **FINAL – Approved 10/17/2023**

 Recorded by: Susie Bishop

 **Meeting Scheduled Start: 1:00 P.M. Call to Order: @ 1:02 P.M.**

 **Public Meeting Announcement Read by Chairman**

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| Dr. John Causey Steve Smith Doug Deen Sara Sebring T.J. Wohl Scott Kirouac Susie Bishop Kayla Nickerson Lauren Ahrens Chad Harmon Wade Smith William Adams Carlos Torres Sierra Arens Christy Chiarelli Audrey Kuipers  | ChairmanVice-ChairmanSecretary/TreasurerSupervisorSupervisorLiaison Executive DirectorBMP Tech.BMP Tech.MIL ManagerMIL TechES 1District Cons.Soil Consv.WLINANR DirectorDistrict Director. | Highlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & Water Highlands Co. Board of  CommmissionersHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterHighlands Soil & WaterFDACS-OAWPUSDA-NRCSUSDA\_NRCSUF-IFASOkeechobee SWCD | YYYYYNYYYYYNNNYY |

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Approval of Agenda –** Motion to approve agenda as presented (Deem/Wohl).

 Unanimous Approval.

 **Workshop – Strategic Work Plan - Christy Chiarelli, Director**

 **UF-IFAS - Wedgworth Leadership**

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes –August 15, 2023 -** Motion made to approve the

 minutes as presented (Wohl/Deen). Unanimous Approval.

1. **Financial Activity**
2. **Overview & Approval of Financial Reports- August 2023:** Review of bank statements & financial reports. Motion to approve the financial reports as presented (Smith/Sebring). Unanimous Approval.
3. **FY Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023 Budget Amendment** – Bishop presented the Budget to Actual Report with explanations to the recommended Amendment.

Motion made to approve Budget Amendment as presented (Deen/Wohl). Unanimous Approval.

1. **FY Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2024** Proposed General Fund Budget – Motion to approve the proposed budget with two increases: 5% Merit/Cola salary increases to L. Ahrens, C. Harmon, W. Smith & K. Nickerson and increase of $3000.00 to the Special Projects line item for Scholarships (Smith/Sebring). Unanimous Approval.
2. **Old Business**
3. **Warner University Scholarship –** As requested by the BoardBishop presented the history of the Scholarship Recipients of previous scholarships awarded by HSWCD. Motion made to present one single scholarship in the amount of $3000.00 to one upper classman who is majoring in Agriculture or Natural Resources (Wohl/Smith). Unanimous Approval.
4. **Ag-Venture Sponsorship Level –** Bishop shared with the Board the three major sponsors to enable Ag Venture to hire a Program Manager. The sponsors for 2023 and 2024 are HSWCD, Lykes Bros., Inc. and Cowpoke’s Watering Hole. Casey Hinote Mosching was hired and is already working to learn/manage the program.
5. **Executive Director’s Report - Items presented:**
* Brief discussion about staff and their excellent performance.
* Monitoring talk of another proposed Bill to Abolish SWCD.
* Will compile the Workshop results and create a new Short/Long Term Work Plan for the District.
* An empty desk in the office will be utilized by the new Ag Venture Program Manager until the desk is needed by staff.
* Amendment was completed for the DEP Contract due to the HSWCD Admin. Fee not being in the Contract Budget properly.

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

 **X. Supervisor Comments -**

Smith - NoneDeen - None

 Sebring – None Wohl – None

 Causey - None

Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.