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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: 07/18/2023**

Meeting Location: HSWCD Conf. Room – Bert Harris Center

**FINAL – Approved 8/15/2023**

Recorded by: Susie Bishop

**Meeting Scheduled Start: 3:00 P.M. Call to Order: @ 3:03 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  Carlos Torres  Sierra Arens | Chairman  Vice-Chairman  Secretary/Treasurer  Supervisor  Supervisor  Liaison  Executive Director  BMP Tech.  BMP Tech.  MIL Manager  MIL Tech  District Cons.  Soil Consv. | Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Co. Board of  Commmissioners  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  Highlands Soil & Water  USDA-NRCS  USDA\_NRCS | Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  Y  N  N  N  N |

**Public Meeting Announcement Read by Chairman**

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

Unanimous Approval.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023 -** Motion made to approve the

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

1. **Financial Activity**
2. **Overview & Approval of Financial Reports- June 2023:** Review of bank statements & financial reports. Motion to approve the financial reports as presented (Deen/Wohl). Unanimous Approval. Bishop presented CD statement informing the Board the 6 Mos. CD is due today having earned $2,281.10 at 4.5% interest. Motion made to renew the CD for 6 Mos.(Wohl/Deen). Unanimous Approval.
3. **Agency Partner Updates**

**a FDACS –** Bishop reported workload is light because staff is several months ahead of

schedule with IV lists. Cost share projects for year 2022-23 are close to all being completed. No Action.

1. **MIL** – Bishop reported required number of evaluations have been completed with extra ones on the books too. The issues with the Project Manager at FDACS continues to be a challenge, but Bishop is working with other MIL Staff to address all the concerns. No Action.
2. **NRCS** – No Report.
3. **HCBCC –** Kirouac reported on Fire Assessments on Ag Zoned Properties, IMWID and Budget.
4. **Old Business**

a. **Strategic Work Plan** - Bishop reported Christy Chiarelli is available and has

committed to facilitate our Workshop on September 19 at 1:00 p.m. to develop a new Strategic Work Plan. Bishop asked for requests/input from the Board for this workshop. No Action.

1. **New Business**
2. **SWCD Activity Statewide Update - Bishop** provided information regarding actions of Supervisors in other SWCDs statewide that could bring some negative attention to SWCDs and what their actual purpose is. Bishop will be attending a meeting in Tallahassee on Aug. 2 with a top lobbyist to discuss how we can be pro-active regarding the potential threat of legislation to dissolve Districts. No Action.

**VIII. Executive Director’s Report**

**Items presented:**

* Bishop affirmed Supervisors completed and submitted Form 1 to the Supervisor of Elections office by the deadline of July 3, 2023. All affirmed they did.
* A public records request was completed yesterday that included employee information and payables for year 2022.
* Bishop discussed with the Board in regards to FDACS-OAWP Director West Gregory informing ALL SWCD contracted staff will not see the 5% COLA increase awarded to all state employees due to the fact the BMP Program Line Item in the budget did not receive an increase so he can’t grant the salary increases. Bishop would like the Board to discuss what HSWCD can do for the valuable employees we now have. Bishop will bring back suggestions at the August meeting.

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

**X. Supervisor Comments -**

Smith - None

Deen - None

Sebring – None

Wohl – None

Causey - None

Meeting Adjourned at 4:17 p.m.