

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

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Dr. John Causey	Chairman	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Steve Smith	Vice-Chairman	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Doug Deen	Secretary/Treasurer	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Sara Sebring	Supervisor	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
T.J. Wohl	Supervisor	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Scott Kirouac	Liaison	Highlands Co. Board of Commissioners	N
Susie Bishop	Executive Director	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Kayla Nickerson	BMP Tech.	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Lauren Ahrens	BMP Tech.	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Chad Harmon	MIL Manager	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Wade Smith	MIL Tech	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
William Adams	ES 1	FDACS-OAWP	N
Carlos Torres	District Cons.	USDA-NRCS	N
Sierra Arens	Soil Conserv.	USDA_NRCS	N
Christy Chiarelli	WLINANR Director	UF-IFAS	Y
Audrey Kuipers	District Director.	Okeechobee SWCD	Y

I. Welcome & Introductions

- II. Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve agenda as presented (Deem/Wohl).
Unanimous Approval.

Workshop – Strategic Work Plan - Christy Chiarelli, Director

UF-IFAS - Wedgworth Leadership

III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes –August 15, 2023** - Motion made to approve the minutes as presented (Wohl/Deen). Unanimous Approval.

IV. Financial Activity

- a. **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.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.

V. Old Business

- a. **Warner University Scholarship** – As requested by the Board Bishop 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.
- b. **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.

VI. 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 - None

Sebring – None

Causey - None

Deen - None

Wohl – None

Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.