## http://www.nacdnet.org/images/resources/logos/images/c150.gifOsceola Soil & Water Conservation District

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** September 21, 2022

**PRESENT:**  Chairperson Valerie Anderson, Secretary Larry Allen Schneck, Sr., Treasurer Dr. Deborah Livingston, and Conservationist Mr. Chuck O’Rourke on Zoom. No guests.

**ABSENT:** Assistant State Conservationist Walter Albarran, Supervisor Jackie Henry, and Subcommittee chairperson Mr. Andrew Jeng.

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**  Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. EDT. Quorum verified by roll call.

* **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance led by Secretary Schneck.
* **Minutes:** August 17, 2022 Minutes approved by voice vote of 3-0. Meeting minutes posted on OSWCD Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/](https://www.facebook.com/OSWCD/" \t "_blank).
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Dr. Livingston stated via e-mail the balance of the bank account is $1,015.09. Treasurer’s report approved by voice vote of 3-0.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** Mr. O’Rourke said his office is finishing the federal government fiscal year with 7 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts with a total value of $585,000 and 8,061 acres. Conservation contracts totaled three with an amount of $284,000 with 7,012 acres. Applications are due in the next fiscal year by September 30, 2023. Next fiscal year each field office in Florida will receive a baseline funding of $100,000 with more money available later for contracts in Orange and Osceola counties. Dr. Livingston asked about the status of Envirothon 2023. Mr. O’Rourke said local volunteers had acknowledge they’d help. The Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD) would provide a place to post documents for Envirothon.
* A land judging competition will take place and is targeted to be held at Magnolia Park. Envirothon is a combined event for Osceola, Seminole, and Orange counties. Mr. O’Rourke said funds for use in Envirothon could not be used for anything other than that event. Secretary Schneck stated to a question by Dr. Livingston asking if we could send fundraising letters asking donors for financial assistance.

**Old Business**

* None

**New Business**

* **Chairperson Report:**  Chair Anderson said she wasn’t able to attend the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) public meeting on the proposed rule, 5M-20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. During the meeting Hillsborough County and Seminole Soil and Water comments were focused on concerns about the size of districts under the redistricting directed by the State of Florida. The chair invited supervisors to read the complaints from the objecting districts.
* A meeting of AFCD took place September 7, 2022, and it decide it no longer provided hardship waivers for conservation districts that couldn’t pay the annual membership fees. A speech contest would take place. The chair said she would send an invitation to the two new members of the Board elected in the 2022 primary election. One of the elected members owns a land clearing company, according to Mr. O’Rourke.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** 4:27 p.m. EDT

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m. EDT online Zoom, Meeting ID: 868 9004 9649 and Passcode: 764951.