

***Osceola Soil & Water Conservation District***

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 19, 2021

**PRESENT:** Supervisors Anthony “Tony” Busby, Larry Allen Schneck, Matthew Boggs, and Dr. Deborah Livingston and Subcommittee Chairperson Andrew Jeng. Guests: None.

**ABSENT:** Jackie Henry

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairperson Tony Busby called the meeting to order after achieving quorum at 5:04 p.m. via Zoom videoconference meeting.

* **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Busby and Invocation from Dr. Livingston.
* **Minutes:** April 21, 2021 Minutes approved by voice vote 4-0.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Dr. Livingston stated the operating account balance is $369.90. The non-profit paperwork she needs to switch the bank accounts to a non-profit account is not available, yet. This will allow the treasurer to open a new account. The checking account closed due to a negative balance. Supervisor Boggs said he would prefer the new accounts be at a credit union.
* **Conservationist’s Report:** None.
* **Old Business**
  + **Removal of Supervisor Jacqueline Henry, Seat 1:** Supervisor Jackie Henry was elected to her current term of four years in 2018 (Term 2019 - 2023). Chair Busby asked for a motion to give Ms Henry another 30 days to respond. Motion carried, 4-0
* **Fresh Community and Victory Gardens:** Mr. Jeng briefed the supervisors about the upcoming Fresh Community event, Saturday, May 22, 2021, 9:00 in Robert Guevara Community Park. County Commissioner Viviana Janer has provided her support for Fresh Community. Mr. Jeng talked about the Victory Gardens initiative, as well. He said he invited the University of Florida Extension Services personnel to join. Dr. Livingston said County Commissioner Ricky Booth referred her to Ms. Eva Pabon at the Extension Services Office for assistance with the gardens project.
* **New Business**
* **Toxicity of Retention Pond Water in Turtle Creek:** A resident in the community, Mr. Juan Arvelo, Turtle Creek Community, Saint Cloud, sent a letter to his Home Owners Association with concerns about dead fish and wildlife in its retention pond near Reflection Cove Street. Chair Busby said it may have been caused by a toxic algae bloom. He said that Saint Augustine grass requires excessive water and fertilizers to maintain, and the runoff into retention ponds have been identified as potential causes of other wildlife kills. Supervisor Boggs proposed a press release be sent to Osceola County residents cautioning of planting Saint Augustine grass because of this impact on soil and water. Dr. Livingston said Ms. Eva Pabon at the Extension Services Office may have data to support a release. Motion to draft a letter to the Turtle Creek HOA carried 4-0.
* **Public Comment:** Supervisor Boggs said Ms. Charlene Meeks, Association of Florida Conservation Districts, is helping him look for funding to assist the OSWCD in its operations.

**Adjournment:** 5:44 p.m.

*Next Meeting:*

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.