



ST. JOHNS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24, 2017

Present:

Chris Wadelton – Chairman

Craig Hartwig – Vice Chairman

Bryan Jones – Supervisor

Tim Wilson – IFAS

John Barnes – Duval SWCD

Gina Allen – Secretary

Wadelton called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report approved for the amount of \$8,221.11.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers was the first item in new business for discussion. It was agreement to keep the same officers as the prior year.

The Public Speaking contest date was set for Tuesday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. to be held at the St. Johns County Ag Center conference room. The topic for this year's contest is "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life".

Poster Contest deadline for submitting is Friday March 24th.

Annual dues were discussed. A motion was made by Hartwig to submit \$350.00 to NACD for annual dues. Jones seconded the motion. A motion was made by Hartwig to submit \$250.00 to AFCDD for annual dues. Jones seconded the motion. Motions passed unanimously.

SJSWCD Meeting

January 24, 2017

John Barnes of the Duval SWCD gave a presentation on the Fred B. Miller Jr. Regional Envirothon. The Envirothon contest will be held on March 9, 2017 at the University of North Florida Wildlife Sanctuary. Over 200 students participated in last year's competition. St. Johns SWCD may participate next year if there are any interest in the competition. Jones suggested getting letters out to the schools to let the teachers be aware of the competition. Hartwig made a motion to donate \$200.00 to help sponsor this year's contest. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Visser led a discussion on setting up a general fund to collect donations for sponsoring contests and projects.

DC REPORT: LaKeisha Barber – See Attached

OPEN FLOOR:

Allen informed the Board that former Supervisor Bucky Sykes would like rejoin the Board. All were in agreement to invite Bucky Sykes to the next regular Board meeting.

There was no further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP

- (6) Active Contracts -
- Deadline for 2017 applicants was October 21st
- 7 applications – (6) cropland; (1) Forestry

Conservation Stewardship Program – CStwP

- Signup deadline February 3rd.
- (2) existing contracts
- 0 applications so far
- 5 year contract; must meet 2 resource concerns on each land use at time of application and 1 additional by the end of the 5 year period.
- **Contract payments are made annually based on the following components: Existing activity payment + additional activity payment + supplemental payment**
 - Existing activity payment:
 - \$350 for each resource concern met, + per acre payment based on land use
 - Crop (Annual, Mixed, Perennial) Farmstead - \$7.50/acre
 - Pasture = \$3.00/acre
 - Range - \$1.00/acre
 - Forest & Associated Ag Land - \$.50/acre
 - Additional activity payment
 - Supplemental payment

Conservation Technical Assistance

- Continue to provide soil maps and topo maps to TCAA applicants as requested.

Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)

- Activated by Hurricane Matthew.
- Purpose is to help clean up impaired watersheds (canals and similar)
 - If another storm were to occur equal to or greater than the storm that caused the damage is there a **threat of flooding**, loss of life or property.
- Contacted last week by someone on behalf of St. John's County. Letters of request are due within 60 days of the natural disaster. **They can submit a waiver request to the 60 days for consideration. Nothing submitted to me so far.**

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

- Also activated by Hurricane Matthew but administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- NRCS is responsible for the technical work.
- Assists farmers to get productive land back to where they can produce again.
 - Most requests have been for debris removal.
 - Contact AJ or Marion at FSA for more information 386-328-5051 x 2

Other

- Attending Prescribed Burning training in Tallahassee all next week Jan 30 – Feb 3.