LAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

January 16, 2019

The Board of Supervisors, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), met on January 16, 2019 at the UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Center at 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares. Those present were:

Supervisors: Banks Helfrich, Rose Fitzpatrick, Cassandra Brown, Timothy O’Connell II, and Robert Myatt

Guests: Aaron Grimes, Sean Tracy, Adam Boykin, Nick Zurasky of the Mobile Irrigation Lab

 Tammy Minkle and Lauren Dorval of FDACS

 Megan Mann, Interim UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Director

 Charlene Meeks and Kaylee Durrance, Association of Florida Conservation Districts

 Suzy Daubert, NRCS

 Katie Pritchett, NRCS Intern

 Yvonne Wolfe, Lakes and Hills Garden Club

At 3:03 PM, Timothy O’Connell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. The meeting had been noticed and proof of publication was presented.

**Public Comment** – Yvonne Wolfe of the Lakes and Hills Garden Club requested a donation of 20 redbud saplings to be received prior to the planned Arbor Day Tree Giveaway on January 19th so that the Lakes and Hills Garden Club could plant them on Friday January 18th in recognition of Arbor Day. On a motion by Rose Fitzpatrick, seconded by Banks Helfrich, and carried unanimously the LSWCD donated 20 redbud saplings to the Lake and Hills Garden Club.

**Meeting Minutes** – On a motion by Banks Helfrich, seconded by Rose Fitzpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes of the meeting held on December 5th, 2018 were approved.

**Financial Report** – On a motion by Cassandra Brown, seconded by Robert Myatt, and carried unanimously, the financial report was approved.

**Correspondence/Action Items** - Timothy O’Connell signed a check written to Central Florida Lands and Timber Nursery for Arbor Day Tree Giveaway saplings. Timothy O’Connell signed a check written to Pear Association for annual membership.

Megan Mann presented the Board with pre-set meeting dates and times for the remainder of 2019, the Board decided to observe the meeting dates as previously set.

Megan Mann notified the Board that she had updated the mailing list for the State of Florida Commission on Ethics prior to the January 31st deadline. The mailing list was updated electronically on January 16th, 2019. Board Members should expect to receive in the mail a financial disclosure form (Form 1) at the end of May which will need to be submitted prior to July 1st.

**USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** – Suzy Daubert updated the Board on the current impact of the Government shutdown on NRCS. As of the date of this meeting NRCS was open but operating with a limited budget, the USDA Farm Services Agency is furloughed.

Suzy Daubert and Katie Pritchett provided the Board with an overview of the Land Judging and Envirothon Contests traditionally supported by the LSWCD. Due to the short time frame, Lake County will not host an Envirothon in 2019. Marion County has indicated a willingness to accept interested Lake County students into their contest.

The Land Judging contest will take place on March 15th. Rose Fitzpatrick will attend to represent the LSWCD, Timothy O’Connell will try to attend as well.

On a motion by Banks Helfrich, seconded by Robert Myatt, the LSWCD will offer financial support to the 2019 Land Judging Contest at the same level they did in 2018. Megan Mann will provide an accounting of what LSWCD spent in 2018 as well as a list of potential ways to support the contest (e.g. give-aways, food, t-shirts) at the February 2019 Board Meeting.

**FDACS - Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)** – No report given.

**Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) –** Adam Boykin stated that 68 evaluations were conducted in the last quarter. Of those 58 were initial evaluations with a potential water savings of 37 million gallons (provided recipients adopt recommended practice changes). 17 of the 69 evaluations were follow up evaluations which discovered an actual water savings of 5 million gallons.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2019 Tree Give-Away** – Banks Helfrich and Timothy O’Connell will attend the Tavares Arbor Day Celebration on January 19th, 2019 in Wooten Park to represent the LSWCD and give away tree saplings.

**2019 Frank Paulhamus Scholarship** – The 2019 Frank Paulhamus Scholarship has been shared with the Educational Foundation for distribution. Megan Mann will bring the completed applications to the April LSWCD Board Meeting for the Board Members to select a winner.

**Agreement between Lake County and LSWCD** – Megan Mann and Timothy O’Connell will meet with Jeff Cole, Lake County Manager, to discuss the current status of the arrangement between the County and LSWCD including the current vacancy for an administrative staff person.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Office Associate IV Position Vacancy** – Megan Mann is working with the County to fill the administrative position which supports the LSWCD. On a motion by Robert Myatt, seconded by Rose Fitzpatrick, carried on a 4-1 vote with Banks Helfrich dissenting, Timothy O’Connell will represent the best interests of LSWCD in any discussions with the County to expeditiously fill the position vacancy.

**Association of Florida Conservation Districts** – Charlene Meeks provided an overview of the AFCD and encouraged Board Members to plan to attend the Annual Meeting held July 11-13, 2019.

**Election of Officers** – The following offices were filled by nomination and vote:

Robert Myatt nominated himself to serve as the public affairs officer, the nomination was seconded by Cassandra Brown, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of Robert Myatt serving as the public affairs officer for 2019.

Rose Fitzpatrick nominated herself to serve as the treasurer, the nomination was seconded by Robert Myatt, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of Rose Fitzpatrick serving as the treasurer for 2019. Rose Fitzpatrick will become the second signer for the LSWCD banks accounts held at Seacoast Bank.

Banks Helfrich nominated himself to serve as the vice chair, the nomination was seconded by Cassandra Brown, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of Banks Helfrich serving as the vice chair for 2019.

Timothy O’Connell nominated himself to serve as the chair, the nomination was seconded by Robert Myatt, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of Timothy O’Connell serving as chair for 2019.

**Board Member Comments –** Each board member introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background and interest in soil and water conservation.

**Adjourn –** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM. The next meeting is on February 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Mann

UF/IFAS Lake County Interim Director