

**SUWANNEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2017**

The Suwannee County Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the USDA-Service Center. Supervisors attending the meeting included: Andy Jackson, Chairman; James D. Williams, Secretary/Treasurer; De Broughton, Supervisor; Terry Reagan, Supervisor, and Ronnie Lawson, Supervisor.

Also attending was: Garrett McCray, SCCD Administrator; Joni Fortner, Staff Assistant; Chris Menhennett, District Conservationist (NRCS); Ryan Lawson, Conservation Technician; Joel Love, BMP Education Coordinator; Matt Yates and Johnathan Richardson, Resource Conservation Partners; and Larry Sessions, Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman, Andy Jackson, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

There was no conference call with EnSave.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. James Williams motioned for those minutes to be approved. This motion was seconded by Ronnie Lawson.

The Financial Reports were discussed and reviewed by Joni Fortner. Ronnie Lawson motioned to approve those reports. This motion was seconded by James Williams.

Ryan Lawson, Conservation Technician, gave his District Activity Report. He stated that he recently attended the Staff Meeting in Ocala regarding the upcoming changes with the Cost Share Contract. There will be more of a ranking type system in place rather than a first-come-first-serve basis as in the past. Some of the equipment has been removed from the list, and they plan to have a 13-31% cut in future Cost Share funds. He has been working on his deliverables, as well as helping to prepare for the CARES dinner.

Matt Yates with Resource Conservation Partners discussed their audit totals and presented their invoice for payment. He stated that there's not been many changes since the previous month, and that he has been trying to get in touch with the inactive producers to see if they will be moving forward.

Chris Menhennett, District Conservationist, gave an update on programs being administered through NRCS. He stated that they are in the process of funding now for EQIP 2017. There's a total of 38 pre-approved applications, which consists of 33 in Suwannee County and 5 in Hamilton County. There will be a second sign-up period for funding through May 19th. Chris presented the Civil Rights documentation to be reviewed and signed by The Board. He also recently attended the Area 2 AFCD Meeting in Jacksonville.

Garrett McCray, SCCD Administrator, went over the Energy Program numbers. There's currently 123 Cost Share Agreements signed for a total of just over \$3 million contracted, with approximately \$2.5 million paid out.

For our BMP Contract, we have a total of \$443,000.00 contracted on equipment, and just over \$1 million contracted on Dairy BMP's. There's approximately \$35,000 remaining, which we have begun to use to pay the Soil Moisture Probe Contracts. There should be an Amendment to our BMP Contract for a \$50,000.00 increase to cover the probes.

The Solar Project has been completed and is operating. Amanda has received her first bill from Suwannee Valley Electric, in which they had birds in the houses for the entire 4 weeks. Their bill was \$25.63! SVE will also credit her account for the kW stored (banking).

Joel Love, BMP Education Coordinator, mentioned the upcoming Twilight Field Day and asked that as many of us as possible attend. He attended the SRP Meeting, and continues to help prepare for the CARES Dinner on May 11th.

Larry Sessions, Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners, went over the Florida Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes policy. The Suwannee County Board will be incorporating something similar as this.

OLD BUSINESS:

As for the insurance, we are awaiting 2 of the 3 quotes, and will continue to work on that.

The scholarship applications were reviewed, and the interviews will be held on May 3rd for 3 SHS students and 4 BHS students.

NEW BUSINESS:

The ordinary bills to be paid were presented. James Williams motioned to pay the bills. This motion was seconded by De Broughton.


The next District Meeting will be held on May 18, 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS:


The FFA Banquet sponsorship was discussed. The Board agreed on donating \$100.00 to Branford for the High and Middle School, and \$100.00 each to Suwannee High and Suwannee Middle Schools.

Andy Jackson mentioned the possibility of hosting the 2018 Area 2 AFCD Meeting here, and The Board agreed to do so.

There being no further business presented, Andy Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ronnie Lawson.



ANDREW JACKSON
CHAIRMAN



JAMES WILLIAMS
SECRETARY/TREASURER