

HIGHLANDS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 11/21/2023

Meeting Location: HSWCD Conf. Room – Bert Harris Center

FINAL - Approved 12/19/2023

Recorded by: Susie Bishop

MEETING SCHEDULED START: 12:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER: @ 12:36 P.M.

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT READ BY CHAIRMAN

I. Welcome & Introductions

Name	Title	Organization	Present
ATTENDANCE			
Dr. John Causey	Chairman	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Steve Smith	Vice-Chairman	Conservation District	Y
Doug Deen	Secretary/Treasurer		Y
Sara Sebring	Supervisor		Y
T.J. Wohl	Supervisor		Y
Scott Kirouac	Liaison	Highlands Co. Board of County Commissioners	Y
Susie Bishop	Executive Director	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Kayla Nickerson	BMP Tech.	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Lauren Ahrens	BMP Tech.	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Andrew Adams	ES I	FDACS-OAWP	Y
Chad Harmon	MIL Manager	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Wade Smith	MIL Tech.	Highlands Soil & Water	Y
Carlos Torres	District Cons.	USDA-NRCS	N
David Royal	Stewardship Proj. Mgr.	The Nature Conservancy	Y

II.

III. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve agenda as presented (Deen/Smith). Unanimous Approval.

IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023** - Motion made to approve the minutes as presented (Wohl/Sebring). Unanimous Approval.

V. **Financial Activity**

a. **Overview & Approval of Financial Reports- October 2023:** Review of bank statements & financial reports. Motion to approve the financial reports as presented (Smith/Deen). Unanimous Approval.

b. **CD Investments** – Board discussed the details of the CDs held with two Non-Qualified Public Depositors. Because the amount of the CDs is under the \$250,000.00 threshold for protection consensus of the Board was to leave the CDs invested as they are. No Action.

VI. **Agency Partner Updates**

a. **FDACS** – K. Nickerson & Bishop provided updates on field staff work, reporting IVs are going well. An increase has been seen for cost share projects for Cow/Calf operations.

b. **MIL** – Bishop & Harmon updated the board on the considerable amount of work they completed with all the MILs in the state to edit the new Scope of Work for the Contracts. The effort was tedious but enabled the MILs to return only one edited version to Contract staff at FDACS-OAWP, rather than seven different edited versions. There has been no response from OAWP to date. A new Standard Operating Procedure for the MILs is being written and we should be in receipt of it for our review soon. Evaluations are ahead of schedule and the hope is there will be financial reward in the new Scope for evaluations completed above the contract required deliverable. No Action.

**Presentation – David Royal, Nutrient Stewardship Project Manager
The Nature Conservancy**

Royal presented the research project at Buck Island on cover crops as a request for funding of 24 months of connectivity fees for soil moisture probe system on the project. Check was presented to Royal. No Action.

c. **NRCS** – No Report.

d. **HCBC** – Commissioner Kirouac reported concerns regarding a recent Commission position on a land rezoning from Agriculture to Medium Density. Fear is this will set a precedence for future rezonings and take away property owner's rights. He asked the Board to be present to fight for property owners' rights at future zonings similar to this one. A new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the HCBC will be selected on Nov. 28. No Action.

VII. **Old Business**

a. **Proposed Legislation** – Bishop reported Representative Truenow has a Bill in draft to regionalize Districts in Florida. Bishop's proposal for regionalizing was shared and discussed with the Board. Bishop's efforts are to be pro-active rather than reactive, in hopes of having a good regional plan for all. As soon as Truenow's draft is received she will review and report to the Board the content. Bishop asked Supervisors to review her documents and provide her with their comments and

questions. No Action.

- b. **Holiday Schedule 2024** – Review of the schedule as discussed in October. Motion to approve the schedule as presented (Wohl/Smith) Unanimous Approval.

VIII. New Business

- a **2024 Board Meeting Schedule** – Motion made to approve the 2024 Board Meeting schedule as presented. (Sebring/Wohl) Unanimous Approval.

IX. Executive Director’s Report - Items presented:

- **Presented the Thank You letter from Warner University**
- **Presented Ag Angels Contribution to S. Kirouac**

IX. Citizens Not on the Agenda – None

X. Supervisor Comments -

- Smith – None
- Deen - Asked how Ag Venture went with the transition to staff.
- Sebring – None
- Wohl – None
- Causey – None

Meeting Adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

John Causey, Chairman

Doug Deen, Secretary

POST MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Action	Assigned To	Deadline
<i>Monitor Legislation regarding Florida SWCD Reorganization</i>	<i>S. Bishop</i>	<i>Spring 2024</i>
<i>Monitor and Manage SOW and SOP for the MIL Contract & Project Manager Concerns</i>	<i>S. Bishop & C. Harmon</i>	<i>Jan. 2024</i>
<i>Assist with Transition to Staff for Ag Venture Program</i>	<i>S. Bishop</i>	<i>January 2024</i>
<i>Manage DEP Stolen Saddle Ranch Contract</i>	<i>S. Bishop</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
