

**HIGHLANDS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**Meeting Location: HSWCD Conf. Room – Bert Harris Center**

**FINAL – Approved 1/16/2024**

**Recorded by: Susie Bishop**

**Meeting Scheduled to start at 3:00 p.m. Called to Order at 3:00 p.m.**

**Public Meeting Announcement Read by Chairman**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Dr. John Causey	Board Chairman	HSWCD
Steve Smith	Vice Chairman	HSWCD
Doug Deen	Secretary/Treasurer	HSWCD
Sara Sebring	Supervisor	HSWCD
T.J. Wohl	Supervisor	HSWCD
Kayla Nickerson	BMP Tech.	HSWCD
Lauren Ahrens	BMP Tech.	HSWCD
Carlos Torres	Soil Cons.	USDA-NRCS

- I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Chairman Causey
- II. New Business: HB 1075 Filed – Rep. K. Truenow – Re-Organization of Soil & Water Conservation Districts -
  - a. Bishop distributed multiple documents for review and discussion. Per discussion motion was made to engage Ramba Consulting Group, LLC to provide lobbying services for the 2024 Legislative Session with payment to be made with General Fund dollars in the amount of \$40,000.00 (Sebring/Wohl). Unanimous Approval.
  - b. Proposed Amendments were distributed and discussed by Bishop and Supervisors. Motion was made to approve the proposed Amendments as presented and ranked by priority to provide to Ramba (Smith/Deen). Unanimous Approval.

- c. HSWCD, AFCD & Other SWCDs – Having approved funding for HSWCD to pay for the entire cost of Ramba Consulting, Supervisors concurred AFCD and other SWCDs in the state will be asked for input and suggestions for desired Amendments to the Bill. Bishop was instructed to attend as many of the meetings regarding the Bills as they are scheduled in Tallahassee. Bishop will be attending the AFCD Board meeting on January 12, 2024 in Gainesville and present the position of HSWCD. No Action.

III. Supervisor Comments

Smith – None

Deen – None

Sebring – None

Wohl – Explanation on the new law for Financial Disclosure Filings and who it applies to. It does not include the filings of SWCD Supervisors.

Causey - None

Adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

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**John Causey, Chairman**

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**Doug Deen, Secretary**