

ST. JOHNS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**111 Yelvington Road, Suite 4, East Palatka, FL 32131**

**Telephone: (386) 328-5051 (Ext. 3)**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Present:**

Nicole Crosby, Chairman

Mary Lawrence, Vice Chairman

Charles “Chuck” Owen, Supervisor

Bill Snow, Supervisor

Tim Wilson, IFAS, St. Johns County

Doug Conkey, SJRWMD

Paul Leblanc, Guest

Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque

Gina Allen, Secretary

Crosby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes from the previous minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s report approved for the amount as of 12/31/21 - $6,387.65

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Preserve Solar Net Metering tabled to next Board meeting.

Poster and Speech Contest date was discussed. Need to know when Area 3 Meeting will be held before setting date.

Florida Envirothon discussed. A team of 5 students and a trainer is needed. Wilson suggested starting with a home school or club. Trainer could be a teacher or volunteer. Crosby suggested the Board attend the Volusia Soil & Water Envirothon in March.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Senate Bill 1078 discussed. A revision has been made to only allow candidates with an agricultural background to serve on the Soil & Water Boards. Owen stated that Soil & Water Boards in the past consists of Supervisors with an agricultural background and were appointed not elected.

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**SJSWCD Meeting**

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Growth development within the County was discussed. Conkey stated the Water Management District’s role is to protect natural resources and water quality and quantity. County utility department controls landuse in the County. Developers need to require a consumptive use permit before development. Permits are sent to the State for approval. Permits are good for up to 5 years.

Owen requested information on Water Management District’s monitoring of the Florida Aquifer. Need to request information back to year 2000. Conkey will research and email data to the Board.

Crosby suggested putting article in the local newspaper letting the public know where the Soil & Water Board stands on Senate Bill 1078. Conkey suggested getting legal advice before publishing an article. Lawrence stated the Soil & Water Boards need a solid unified message to the Florida State Legislature. Post on social media websites and attend County Commissioner meetings to get word out.

Goals and Objectives next for discussion. Lawrence goals & objectives completed as is. Conservation Education and Outreach discussed. Last item concerning educational initiatives was deleted under program/project/activity.

Community concerns was next for discussion. Crosby stated voting on constituent issues as a Board. Snow stated the Board needs a volunteer associate to help promote our goals and objectives.

Gaining understanding of County infrastructure was next for discussion. Items 1 and 2 under program/project/activity deleted. Snow questioned the effectiveness of touring County facilities. Crosby stated the attendance of touring County facilities is optional. Continuing touring and monitoring facilities tabled to next Board meeting.

Promote smart growth practices discussed. Crosby suggested a resolution under this category. Balloon resolution passed in County. 100% concerning wildlife habitat. Snow suggested adding wildlife preservation under program/project/activity.

A discussion was held on the impact growth management has on water/ land usage and wildlife. Crosby suggested proposed resolution to identify land developments less likely to harm environment.

Crosby to combine Goals & Objective statements and make overall plan. Draft plan and post on social media.

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**SJSWCD Meeting**

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**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque-See Report**

Memorandum of Understanding between USDA/SWCD to be reviewed and signed by District Chairman. Emailed to Chaparro-Feneque when signed.

**OPEN FLOOR:**

Snow discussed Owen’s proposal of increased funding for micro irrigation systems. He suggested putting item in Goals and Objectives plan.

**ADJOURMENT:** The was no other discussion meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. Next Board meeting scheduled for February 23, 2022.