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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 24, 2024

**Present:**

Chuck Owen, Chairman

D. L. Barnes, Supervisor

Bucky Sykes, Supervisor

Evan Wilson, Supervisor

Conrad Wysocki, NRCS

Charlene Meeks, AFCD

Doug Conkey, SJRWMD

Ken Cazarde, IFAS

Gina Allen, Secretary

Owen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes from the previous minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s report approved for the amount as of 12/29/23 - $6,487.65.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Drone Update (Deep Creek): Owen contacted drone pilot. Wanted only to do still aerial photo of Deep creek. Full footage is needed. Funding is the issue. Wysocki will do research to see if NRCS can be of assistance.

Drainage Problems within the County and Farming Area: Small discussion on drainage problems. Some connected to Deep Creek area.

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**SJSWCD Board Meeting**

**1/24/24**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Election of Officers: Keep same as last year.

Future Goals and Projects: Meeks suggested doing research to see what projects other Soil & Water Boards are involved with.

New District Conservationist East Palatka Service Center: Person has been hired. Waiting on start date.

**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Conrad Wysocki-See Report:**

**OPEN FLOOR:**

Meeks informed Board that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) has selected Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC to conduct a performance review of each independent soil and water conservation district within the next 2 weeks. As part of the performance audit, they will request and review a variety of District records and data.

Meeks informed the Board of two new senate bills, SB 1772 and HB 1077, relating to Soil & Water Conservation Boards.

Conkey led a discussion on St. Johns River Water Management cost share projects that could possibly help the Deep Creek drainage situation. A suggestion was made to contact Corinne Hermle, Strategic Planning Basin Manager, for the St. Johns River lower basin for assistance.

St. Johns County Elections Resolution was viewed by the Board. Sykes made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Barnes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Document was signed by Chairman Owen. Document states that the Board has adopted the Florida Election Code and intends for the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections to conduct the 2024 special district election.

**ADJOURMENT:** The was no other discussion meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. Next Board meeting scheduled for February 28, 2024.