

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:** December 22, 2021

**Present:**

Nicole Crosby, Chairman

Mary Lawrence, Vice Chairman

Charles “Chuck” Owen, Supervisor

Joe McAnarney, Supervisor

Bill Snow, Supervisor

Chris Christiansen, IFAS, Hastings Research Center

Tim Wilson, IFAS, St. Johns County

Doug Conkey, SJRWMD

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 11/30/21 - $6,437.65

**NEW BUSINESS:**Senate Bill 1078 discussed. Abolishment of all Soil & Water Boards in the State of Florida topic of Bill. A partition containing important talking points from each Soil & Water Board is needed to send to Charlene Meeks.

McAnarney and Crosby recently attended Association of Florida Conservation Districts ZOOM meeting discussing the Bill. McAnarney stated that all Soil & Water Boards in the State of Florida were represented in the ZOOM meeting. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Association of Florida Conservation District and National Association of Conservation Districts gave their support during the meeting.

A vote of 4 to 1 to hold a short ZOOM meeting to continue discussion of the Senate Bill 1078 was passed. Talking points will be discussed at that time. A date was set for Wednesday, December 29th at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

**OLD BUSINESS:**Crosby gave an update on the Balloon Resolution. First reading of the Resolution was held on 12/21/21. Seconded reading will be held on 1/18/22.

Crosby gave an update on the Marsh Landing Subdivision. St. Johns County to hire an attorney. Some progress has been made.

Soil & Water goals and objectives was discussed at this time.

Snow held a discussion on Green Infrastructure. Runoff from stormwater a major cause of water pollution in urban and suburban areas.

Snow’s Project Activities for Green Infrastructure include:

1) Develop project proposals with St. Johns River Water Management District.

2) Partner with contractors to hold landowner presentations for permeable driveways and patios.

3) Form county planning group with DEP, local citizen committees, utility department and other entities.

4) Continue to promote Florida Friendly Landscaping

Conkey informed the Board of St. Johns River Water Management District FY 2022-2023 District Wide Cost Share Funding. The Water Management District will fund up to 25% of construction costs for alternative water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural system projects and up to 50% for water conservation projects.

Urban Agriculture was next on Snow’s project activity list for discussion. The Soil & Water Board’s goal is to work with communities to develop sustainable urban agriculture operations as follows:

1) Work with community leaders to determine need and resources for community gardens.

2) Work with the County to determine potential sites, manage zoning and permits.

3) Visit local composting and recycling facilities.

Wilson stated IFAS agents have programs to education the public on composting and Florida Friendly Landscaping.

Owen discussed the County Wastewater Treatment Plant tour. Water is treated 50/50 mix with raw and treated water then sending it back to homes. Lawn irrigation discussed. Underground seepage systems are needed for yards.

Snow informed the Board of a local regeneration park in Duval County. Crosby suggested taking a tour of the park.

**District Conservationist Report: Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque**

**ADJOURMENT:** The was no other discussion meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Next Board meeting scheduled for January 26, 2022.