

Regular Meeting Minutes
Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)
September 19, 2024 9:00am
Collier IFAS Extension
14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120

A regular monthly board meeting of the board of supervisors was called to order September 19, 2024 at 9:06am

Present: Rob Griffin, James Nikolich, Santos Colberg (via telephone), Meghan Foos, Heather Cleckler, Jillian Sanchez, and Jess Morris. New guest Irwin Acosta-Lopez who assists Santos Colberg.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda Supervisor Meghan Foos added items (AgVentures, IFAS Update, and GEER) under New Business before approval. Supervisor Heather Cleckler made a motion to approve the agenda with added new business. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez seconds.

III. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes Supervisor Jillian Sanchez made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.

IV. Reports

a. District Conservationist's Report: Mr. Colberg introduced Irwin Acosta-Lopez as the new employee at the Ft. Myers field office to the board. Santos reports 30 new EQIP and 8 new CSP applications. FY 2025 application deadline is 11/1/2024. FY24 applications deferred for 2025 are 40 EQIP and 6 CSP. Florida's FY 2024 Obligation reached a record of approximately 67 million. Ft. Myers accounts for over 2 million of the state's obligations. Santos gave us the summary of obligated CSP in Collier (2) and Lee County (14). He also summarized the preapproved 2024 EQIP applications, with 19 preapproved applications and 17 of those applicants funded. EQIP High Tunnel has one obligated app. In Collier, one obligated app. EQIP IRA ACT NOW, and EQIP Classic with 4 obligated in Collier and 13 obligated in Lee.

Mr. Colberg reported that FL State Conservationist Juan Hernandez would like to work with, and is open to new ideas from, this board on special projects on properties owned by CSWCD. He also informed the board that NRCS will start working with the Aquaculture industry and he is looking for clam and oyster producers in SWFL. He is currently working with the state office and participated in the International Shellfish Restoration Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia. He also informed the board members about the FWC's Panther Payment for Ecosystem Services Pilot Program. He summarized his report by stating that NRCS Plant Material Center is looking for ideas and alternatives for soil health practices and implementation in SWFL.

b. Financials: Supervisor Heather Cleckler reports returning the \$5000.00 check to Mark Stout's office that was to be used for the bank transfer. The check was returned when the board agreed to remain with Bank of America. Mr. Nikolich reports that the September financial report isn't available yet but will be emailed as soon as made available. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez made a motion to approve the July and August financial reports. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.

- c. District Status Report:** Mr. James Nikolich reports the following:
The following months' invoices have been deposited: April \$7,377.07;
May \$9,836.51; June \$8,387.20. The July invoice has been submitted and deposited for \$16,967.03 (including Audit). The August invoice has been approved and deposited for \$8,179.32.
Mr. Nikolich has completed 17 evaluations in May, 11 evaluations in June, 14 evaluations in July, 14 evaluations in August. In September so far he has completed 4 evaluations and Has 5 more scheduled. Mr. Nikolich also informed the board that the new truck will need a Collier tag.
- d. Chairman's Report:** Chairman Rob Griffin suggests the board invite a notary to our next meeting so board members can take their oath of office. He also shared that the AFCD annual state convention will be in Destin this year on November 1 and 2, 2024.
- e. Secretary's Report:** Supervisor Heather Cleckler refers to meeting minutes for report
- f. Treasurer's Report:** Supervisor Meghan Foos discusses the expenses for the soil trailer. Supervisor Jess Morris makes a motion to approve improvements for trailer not to exceed \$500.00. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez seconds.
- g. Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Jillian Sanchez discusses the \$10 dues for our oath of office.
- h. Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Jess Morris discusses still not receiving reimbursement from the 2023 AFCD state convention. She will contact Charlene to resolve.

V. Old Business

- a.** The OPPAGA Review was completed. The board suggest we dissect our audit one more time and review the suggestions given.

VI. New Business

- a.** Supervisor Meghan Foos discussed the upcoming AgVenture Events in Collier, Hendry, and Glades county. She also requested for volunteer time from the board members for the events.
- b.** Supervisor Meghan Foos made a suggestion to work with and collaborate with IFAS and Invite a representative from IFAS to our regular board meetings.
- c.** Supervisor Meghan Foos also informed the board about the upcoming GEER event in April and suggest that CSWCD Board members should try to attend.

VII. The board agreed to have our next board meeting on October 17, 2024 at our regular Meeting site at the IFAS Extension Center at 9:00am.

VIII. Adjourn meeting adjourned at 10:19am.