

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD)  
IFAS Extension Center  
14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120

A regular monthly board meeting of the board of supervisors was called to order on November 14, 2024 at 9:07 am

Present: Rob Griffin, James Nikolich, Jess Morris, Meghan Foos, Heather Cleckler, Jillian Sanchez, Santos Colberg, Irwin Acosta-Lopez, guest Becky-Massey, and guests from IFAS Lindsey Crum and Craig Frey.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Approval of Agenda** After moving the oath of office for supervisors from new business to after the approval of regular meeting minutes, Supervisor Heather Cleckler makes a motion to approve the agenda. Supervisor Meghan Foos seconds.

**III. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes** Supervisor Jess Morris makes a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Jillian Sanchez seconds.

**IV. Oath of Office for Supervisors** all supervisors performed the oath of office and guest Becky Crews-Massey notarized the oaths.

**V. Reports**

**a. District Conservationist's Report:** Mr. Santos Colberg gave an update on FY 2024 and FY 2025. EQIP currently has 50 applications (16 in Collier, 24 in Lee). Disaster EQIP has 19 applications (4 in Collier, 15 in Lee) with a December 20, 2024 application deadline. CSP has 15 applications (4 in Collier, 11 in Lee). He also supplied each member with a detailed program timeline for FY 2025. He informed the board that the Ft. Myers field office will get a new employee in January. He also informed that NRCS is hosting hiring events, particularly in Puerto Rico, because hiring in the States is difficult since soil classes have been removed from many major universities. NRCS is able to hire 40 new employees. Mr. Colberg emphasized again how state conservationist (Juan Hernandez) would like to collaborate with CSWCD on a project for our properties. Board members discussed difficulties coming up with an idea that would work due to the land being wetlands. He also let the board know that NRCS is looking for alternative soil health practices and ag producers willing to test alternatives with cover crops in South Florida.

**b. Financial's Report:** Supervisor Jillian Sanchez makes a motion to approve the monthly financial report provided by mark Stout. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

**c. District Status Report:** Mr. James Nikolich informed the board 16 evaluations were completed in October 2024. The invoice for September has been sent to Camilo for \$8,673.01 and approved November 4, 2024, but has not yet been paid. The October invoice has been sent for approval for a total of \$7881.13. Mr. Nikolich is still waiting on FDACS for the truck transfer from Labelle and the truck may need repairs. He also said the ICC meeting in Sebring on November 13, 2024 was for all MIL's in the state. He also stated that Camilo with FDACS is likely going to accept most waivers because of recent hurricanes in October.

**d. Chairman's Report:** Chairman Rob Griffin stated he was excited to have all board members take the oath of office and looking forward to the continued work with the board.

**e. Secretary's Report:** Supervisor Heather Cleckler referred to Regular Meeting Minutes

**f. Treasurer's Report:** Supervisor Meghan Foos informed the board that the CSWCD trailer will be going to the AgVentures in Hendry and Glades county November 21 and 22, 2024. She also informed the board that AgVentures is still in need of volunteers.

**g. Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Jillian Sanchez offered and will mail the Oaths to the state for all supervisors. She also shared information on the upcoming Bulls and Bronc rodeo in Immokalee on November 15 and 16, 2024.

**h. Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Jess Morris offered to invite Representative Lauren Melo to our next CSWCD board meeting on December 19, 2024.

**VI. UF/IFAS Update:** guests Lindsey Crum and Craig Frey shared the overwhelming success of Agventures in SWFL. Due to the success, more work is needed to take Agventures to more counties and more 4th graders to spread awareness on agriculture and it's impact in the state of Florida. Because of this, IFAS is looking to hire someone for a part-time position to focus solely on AgVentures (with a 12-month contract). Lindsey informed the board that IFAS would like to join forces with CSWCD to ask for a sponsorship to pay said employee's \$30,000 annual salary for one year. After asking our guest to give us privacy to discuss, Supervisor Meghan Foos made a motion to discuss the sponsorship at our next board meeting after reviewing the cost and its impact. Supervisor Heather Cleckler seconds.

## **VII. Old Business**

- a. Supervisor Meghan Foos informed the board that funding provided for the trailer paint has not been used yet.
- b. Supervisors Meghan Foos and Heather Cleckler also reiterated the importance of attending GEER in April 2025.
- c. Supervisors discussed asking for credit for travel to the next AFCD meeting from the expenses that were never reimbursed from the 2023 AFCD meeting in Gainesville.

### **VIII. New Business**

- a. The AFCD Area Meeting previously scheduled for November 1 and 2, 2024 was cancelled due to the recent hurricanes.

Next Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024.

**IX.** Meeting adjourned at 10:55.