

ALACHUA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

September 25, 2023 5:30pm  
Alachua Chamber of Commerce  
14801 Main Street, Alachua

Present: Archie Matthews(AM), Walt Boyer(WB), Patrick Sell(PS), Pat Lee(PL), Monica Jones.  
A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as presented. Motion(PS), second(PL) , motion passed.

Treasurer's report: \$1547.13 in the checking account.  
Mail – no new mail to review.

Reports:

NRCS – DC Jones reported that she is covering 3 offices. Will present a report at a later meeting as to EQUIP and CSP money available for Alachua County.

Closing out the fiscal year.

Application periods for EQUIP and Hurricane Relief will be open until November 17<sup>th</sup>.

(PS) can EQUIP funds be used for invasive grasses? The proposed workshop with Newberry was discussed. DC Jones noted that EQUIP is a cost share program, not a grant. She advises that we send people to her with specific questions about EQUIP and other programs.

(WB) noted that we want to be able to deliver information. DC Jones noted that the requirements for EQUIP are specific and up to NRCS to interpret.

(WB) Would NRCS be a part of a seminar on invasive grasses? DC Jones replied in the affirmative.

(WB) We would like to have the seminar in the Newberry area as interest was expressed at the City Commission meeting. Possibly 25-50 in attendance.

DC Jones indicated that EQUIP has a batching period sign up. The meeting would need to be prior to the sign up. Individuals would need to apply.

(PS) a spring workshop would be useful to get ready for the sign up period.

DC Jones noted that while the programs change every year, the practices don't. it will be simpler if we focus on conservation practices.

There were questions about ASWCD participation with other partners regarding the invasive weed seminar. Question about the possibility of a State program?

DC Jones indicated that she has not been getting meeting notices.

Chairman Boyer created the ASWCD member emails so that any public records requests would come to those addresses rather than a Supervisor's personal email. Some have not been able to sign on.

FDACS/OAWP: Not present.

Unfinished Business: None

(PS) Question about business cards. (PL) Still need pictures from WB, AM. Question about who would pay for the cards. We had voted previously for the District to pay.

New Business:

(WB) We are discussing a Spring workshop to deliver information to municipalities. We still need to setup meetings with Alachua, High Spring and Archer City Commissions to present information. Hawthorne has committed to providing land for judging contests and a building for meeting for the contest.

Dates to remember:

AFCD Annual Meeting – September 26-27, UF Hilton.

(PL) Climate Fair workshop on 9/30, will be attending.

(WB) State Parks meeting 10/06

(PS) Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum 9/28

(AM) the Certified Conservation District Officer seminar will be October 19-20 at the Florida Farm Bureau Building.

Next meeting – October 30, 2023

Mid- June or July 2024 – NACD SE Regional meeting. Negotiating with the UF Hilton for rooms. Anticipating tours of springs and GRU Wastewater Recharge unit.

Supervisor Comments:

(WB) Will continue to pursue contacts with municipalities. We need financial support, please contact businesses that believe in conservation. We need money to recognize BMP participants and judging contests. Would like to plan a banquet for next fall. We will need to start planning to see what we will need. The minutes of the meeting for the year need to be sent to him to be posted on the website.

(PL) We should plan an activity and go after the sponsorship.

(AM) Will have an answer as to the location of the State Land Judging contest for 2024. Will make contacts with UF and other parties.

(PS) Would like to have Wendy Graham with the UF Water Institute for a future presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.