

## **Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**February 14, 2017**

#### **Longwood City Hall – Longwood, Florida**

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

A roll call was taken. All Supervisors present: Donald Menzel, David Mahnken, Edmund Young, Justin York, Judith Benson.

The Board considered and reviewed Meeting Minutes from the January 10, 2017 meeting. York moved to approve the minutes. Benson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board considered and reviewed the proposed Meeting Agenda. Benson moved to approve the Agenda. Young seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the written NRCS Update provided by David Millard in his absence. The Update included work activity by NRCS in Seminole County from December 2016 to January 2017. Services were provided to the City of Altamonte Springs and the City of Casselberry. A Forage Inventory Update and a Stocking Rate Inventory were also provided for a total of 68 hours of work.

The Board heard a presentation by Sharon Lynn with the League of Women Voters of Florida regarding its partnership with Florida Solar United Neighborhoods (FLSUN). Ms. Lynn discussed cooperatives being established in Orange County and St. Petersburg; interest in cooperatives in Seminole County; Florida lagging behind residential solar use compared to other states; and voter validation of solar energy from past election results. Pamphlets were handed out to persons in attendance at the meeting about the League's activities in this area.

Ms. Lynn also explained that the League and FLSUN would hold listening sessions and forums; intended to assist in forming cooperatives among homeowners; and expected the application of free market principles in bidding for solar equipment installation among private vendors. The League also expected that each homeowner could individually contract with a cooperative-selected installer and the installer could determine if the home had too much coverage to utilize solar energy. Neither the League nor FLSUN select installers. Only homeowners select installers. She emphasized that solar jobs were growing locally due to the strong demand for solar energy. Local installers chosen by other cooperatives were having to hire additional help to keep up with demand.

Ms. Lynn explained that the League wants SSWCD to partner in the venture and assist in publicizing cooperatives. She also invited SSWCD to join the steering committee as well.

Ms. Lynn outlined a calendar of events. On February 23, 2017, a luncheon was planned at the Patio Grill in Sanford. Debbie Macnab will be the speaker. Ms. Lynn anticipated the first steering committee meeting to be in late March 2017 with a follow up press conference in April 2017. Afterwards they would begin listening sessions and information forums.

York asked if the League has approached cities and counties about participation. Ms. Lynn said she approached Seminole County BOCC regarding interest. She is trying to get others organizations and entities to participate in order to entice BOCC to participate. She is in the process of getting Northland Church to participate. She recently met with Dr. Joel Hunter. Citizen's Climate Lobby is currently a partner. Seminole State College is in the process of reviewing partnership status. Audubon Seminole is a likely partner.

York follow up asking whether Duke or FPL expressed interested in participation. Ms. Lynn said no and she did not expect it. York asked because utilities might more open to collaboration since Amendment 1 was defeated. Ms. Lynn said that it was interesting. She noted Mayor Teresa Jacobs supported a coop in Orange County with local funds. Ms. Lynn hopes to get Seminole BOCC to be a county partner and get a commissioner involved.

Young asked whether ground-based solar cells were available. Ms. Lynn said she did not know. Young referenced certain homes which may not be amenable to roof-based solar panels. Ms. Lynn said she is not sure if the issue has come up in the co-ops but it is a good idea to address. Young assumes that more people that buy into the cooperative the larger percentage discount. Ms. Lynn agreed. She said that if Orange County is any indicator, there will be a good reaction in Seminole County. Young mentioned it could improve home values.

Benson had a question about the qualifications and experience of installers and their insurance requirements. Ms. Lynn said that once a coop is established the coops ask for proposals. The coops have control over what qualifications they expect from the installers. Benson thought this would be an issue for the steering committee and she has a background in contracting. Ms. Lynn said that that experience would be valuable on the committee.

Mahnken wanted to know what feedback had been received about existing coops. Ms. Lynn she understands why it will be important. She expects future testimony. Mahnken asked whether contractors provide discounted maintenance services. A discussion ensued regarding services provided.

Young is aware of what is going on in Orange County and wanted to know what the turnaround was for an installation. Ms. Lynn said that it is a work in progress; there has been such a huge response that it is slowing down installation. Numerous contractors are being hired by solar contractors due to demand. She knows it is not a real answer but she intends to find out the answer.

Mahnken wanted to know the minimum number of homes contractors are comfortable with. Ms. Lynn estimated approximately 50.

Young mentioned condo associations examining solar power. Young asked whether solar installers would be interested in working with condo associations buying at a 100% rate. Ms. Lynn said not so far. In residential HOAs, she does not believe the HOA can stop solar panel installation. Solar panels do not appear to have gotten into the condo market yet.

Menzel thanked her for her time. Menzel mentioned that any involvement by SSWCD would come up in New Business. She said the Board can commit at whatever level it wanted. The lower level would be our logo appearing on materials. SSWCD could also join the steering committee.

Question from audience [inaudible]. Ms. Lynn answered that the cooperative would not have to be clustered in one area and that there was no pushback from HOAs.

Young noted there was a number of people in the audience but the agenda did not have a public participation section. York concurred. Menzel stated that public comment would be allowed after the public relations report.

## **Chair Report**

Menzel discussed filings with the Florida Department of Ethics and associated communications to update the Commission with information about the new Board. He also updated the corporate filings for Conserve All Ways, LLC and intended to donate in-kind the costs of renewing the filings with the State of Florida.

Menzel met with Seminole County Clerk of Court Grant Malloy and Luanne Woodley. Ms. Woodley was excited about the potential for the RICHES program. In the Seminole Clerk's office, it possesses plats that Ms. Woodley is fond of. Menzel discussed Dr. Connie Lester's response to our records. He believes Dr. Lester would like to work out preserving assets at Seminole COC.

Seminole COC is currently agreeable to having space for SSWCD at their Lake Mary building. A discussion ensued regarding the layout of the building and potential SSWCD office space.

Menzel explained that Florida law requires Seminole COC have compliant facilities for records storage. Luanne thought SSWCD could have space in their facilities for storage. A discussion ensued regarding current and future document storage and public access to Board records as well as future office space for the Board. Also discussed was an opportunity for space in the Seminole County Tax Collector's office as well.

Menzel addressed correspondence to the members of the Board from Chuck Amburn regarding website invoices. Menzel described his discussion with Mr. Amburn. The Board intended to address the website invoice issue itself in New Business.

Menzel asked Young regarding whether the Board had hard copies of bank account statements to examine prior expenses. Young had certain copies and thought Benson may have copies as well. Young has no records evidencing contract with CRA2 or past invoices from CRA2. Benson archived certain prior records.

Menzel addressed emails from Young regarding P.O. Box situation. To insure compliance with Sunshine law, Menzel said we cannot conduct new business by email or without a public meeting. Menzel reached out to Bryant Applegate who directed Menzel to a private attorney or the State of Florida for guidance. Menzel wants to make sure as Chair that we are compliant with Sunshine. Menzel spoke with Pat Gleason about the emails and explained the situation. Gleason said Menzel handled the matter properly and suggested the Board place two packets at the meeting for public review and one copy for the Secretary to add a copy of the emails to the record. A board discussion ensued regarding specificity of the email conversation and proactive measures taken to publicize the correspondence. Menzel wanted to be sure it was public what occurred to insure no liability attached to the Board. The mailbox issue is now on the agenda for New Business. A discussion ensued regarding the relevant aspects of the Sunshine Law.

## **Vice Chair Report**

Mahnken presented a check from his campaign account as a donation on behalf of MSE Group, LLC for the SSWCD poster contest. A board discussion ensued regarding proper depositing of the check.

Mahnken had begun to review Seminole County's wetland ordinance. He is developing a matrix to compare County's ordinance to state law. He contacted Commissioner Dallari's assistant and elaborated that this was an ongoing project. He intended to prepare a presentation for the Board in the future.

Mahnken met with Oviedo Commissioner Megan Sladeck, Oviedo City Manager Bryan Cobb, and Bobby bWyatt with Oviedo Public Works. Oviedo will spend \$5 million to purchase property at Twin Rivers Golf Course. Oviedo will continue to operate the property as a golf course but he believes it is to prevent it from becoming dilapidated and upsetting residents. The long term plan is open for the property. Oviedo is looking at using the property for floodwater attenuation and potentially wetland treatment settings and other things that could be incorporated into a park setting.

## **Treasurer Report**

Young reported a balance of \$51.48 for the SSWCD; and a balance of \$1,081.85 for Conserve All Ways, LLC. Young explained that by the March 2017 meeting, the balance for Conserve All Ways, LLC would be higher. Young stated his intent to donate leftover campaign funds from his campaign to the SSWCD.

Young stated that Harbor Community Bank had refunded \$2 to the Conserve All Ways, LLC account but had never taken out the \$2 amount originally. He had contacted the Altamonte Springs branch to discuss the issue. A discussion continued regarding CAW deposits.

Young discussed sitting in on community meetings. Rolling Hills Golf Course will be turned into a park. There had been a prior push to turn it into high density apartments. No timetable had been established but the property will be used for recreational purposes. Mahnken and Young discussed final approval of the project.

## **Secretary Report**

York intended to discuss Seminole County's proposed fertilizer ordinance but it was reset under New Business.

York discussed previously approved 5-Year Plan and intent to reorganize responsibilities for implementing the Plan based on the new composition of the Board. Menzel stated it should be moved to Old Business and the Board agreed to discuss it at the next meeting.

York discussed previously circulated Public Records Request Form. Menzel suggested bringing proposed Form to the next meeting for public consideration and final approval.

York and Mahnken discussed Mahnken's Dividend status. Mahnken intended to obtain Dividend status in order for the two to proceed with SSWCD's proposed educational programming.

## **Public Relations**

Benson and York agreed to work on changing CALNO bylaws to grant SSWCD voting rights at CALNO. Benson had contacted Sanford attorney Lonnie Groot who agreed SSWCD should have a voting voice at CALNO. Benson wanted to insure SSWCD was on an equal playing field with other CALNO members and to heighten SSWCD's role at CALNO. A discussion ensued regarding SSWCD's enhanced role at CALNO.

Benson discussed needing ribbons and award materials for the poster contest. A discussion ensued regarding past poster contests.

Benson moved to approve the use of funds up to \$75 to purchase materials for the poster contest. York seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Benson discussed AFCD were she is a deputy VP. A broader Board discussion ensued regarding the activities of the AFCD. SSWCD is in Area 3B. There had been discussion to be move the District to District 3A but SSWCD remained in 3B.

Benson mentioned that the Area 3 Meeting was to be held in Hillsborough County on April 8, 2017. Eric Rolling is SSWCD's Area 3 VP. Benson cannot make meeting. Young planning to attend anyways so will represent SSWCD at the meeting. Benson encouraged someone from SSWCD to run for executive position for Area 3. Discussion of the AFCD meeting schedule ensued. Benson says someone from urban area should be on executive board for Area 3.

Menzel wanted to know if SSWCD is required to participate in AFCD activities. Benson said she was not aware.

Menzel wanted to know if anyone on Board wanted to being involved with AFCD activities instead of Benson. Young and Mahnken said they would consider it. A board discussion ensued on the subject. Benson mentioned that it may involve a commitment of time and expense.

Menzel requested Benson write a synopsis of a SSWCD partnership with AFCD and what may be required of a Board's member participation with the AFCD.

Benson moved onto the Casselberry Earth Fest scheduled for April 29, 2017 from 12pm to 8pm. A discussion ensued regarding prior Board participation at the event.

Benson moved that the Board participate at Earth Fest in 2017. York seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Benson had been invited to speak at a local Girl Scout troop on behalf of SSWCD. Benson discussed her attendance and how she described the facets of and careers in water conservation and management.

Benson is putting together a list of judges for the poster contest. A board discussion ensued regarding recommended judges. The Board settled on Abby Sanchez, David Mahnken, and David Millard. Menzel stated he would be an alternative if need be. Benson is looking to donors for a potential other judge.

### **Public Participation.**

Jason LaTorre a resident of Casselberry spoke at the meeting. He was checking on the status of Board website. Menzel explained that the issue will come up later in the agenda. Menzel encouraged him to speak regarding his business. The Board previously obtained a proposal from LaTorre at a past meeting. Young discussed the prior proposal. LaTorre continued discussing his company's potential web services to the Board. Mr. LaTorre's company is BizyBit Corporation.

### **Old Business**

Benson moved to set aside discussion of the 5-Year Plan until the March 2017 meeting. York seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Young discussed the SSWCD's mailbox. Currently the District was paying \$74 per year. A discussion ensued to move to a smaller mailbox at a lower cost of \$25 per year. Young moved to move to a smaller mailbox and authorize Benson to take action necessary to do so. York seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Benson wanted to incorporate additional language into our bylaws which reflects language from Chapter 582 of Florida Statutes. The Board previously received additional language for consideration via email. Mahnken did not have opportunity to review additional language.

Benson moved to add her language to the bylaws be published on the website in addition to the proposed amended bylaws from the January 2017 workshop for public consideration. York seconded.

Aye – Menzel, York, Young, Benson | Nay – Mahnken. The motion passed.

Menzel received email from CRA2 Productions principal Charles Amburn. The Board received two invoices for website, one dated January 2, 2017 for 2015-16 services and one dated January 4, 2017 for 2016-17 services.

Benson is the only Supervisor on current Board with past dealing with CRA2. She noted CRA2 is invoicing in arrears. Benson has not received invoices from CRA2 for these periods prior to January 2017. She reviewed prior correspondence with CRA2, and she could not locate a contract with CRA2. Last time CRA2 was paid by SSWCD was 2013. The Board being charged monthly for \$10 / month for hosting and \$10 / month for monitoring. A board discussion ensued regarding resolution of these invoices and insuring the continuity of the website to keep public information online.

Benson moved to liaise with CRA2 to resolve the invoice issue. York seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Menzel suggested to the Board to keep in mind future speakers for the third and fourth quarter. Menzel mentioned that Bryant Applegate may again discuss the Sunshine Law before SSWCD.

Benson moved that the Board pen a letter of support for Seminole County's proposed fertilizer ordinance. York seconded. Mahnken had concerns with current language. Benson withdrew her motion.

Young moved for SSWCD to be a partner with the League and FLSUN to promote solar cooperatives. Benson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

York moved for Benson to continue representing SSWCD at CALNO. Young seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

York moved for Mahnken to represent SSWCD at Seminole County's Development Review Committee (DRC). Young seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Young moved to adjourn. Benson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.