

ALACHUA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

April 24, 2023 5:30pm  
Alachua Chamber of Commerce  
14801 Main Street, Alachua

Present: Archie Matthews(AM), Patricia Lee(PL), Walt Boyer(WB), Patrick Sell(PS), Jancie Vinson(JV), Monica Jones(MJ), Stacie Greco, Charlene Meeks

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairman Walt Boyer. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with minor corrections. **Motion (JV) Second (PL), Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report. – Balance in checking is \$1619.13, check for \$50.00 to C.A.R.E.S is pending.

NRCS

DC Jones responded to the question raised by Commissioner Clark at the Newberry meeting about grants for invasive species. Grants are available for forest and grazing lands.

-There are promotional materials available. Samples will be brought to the next meeting.

-Soil survey information is available.

-Working on EQUIP and CSP applications.

-The easement program is managed out of the state office. Program manages restoration. There are 30 year and perpetual easements. The State office can provide additional details.

Chairman Boyer requested that the information about the invasive species program be forwarded to the Board.

FDACS/OAWP – No report.

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department - Stacie Greco

-Ms. Greco presented a program “Alachua County’s Water Resources Strategies” (attached) and a pocket guide.

-Explanation of concerns.

-The Suwannee River Water Management District, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection are jointly looking at ways to determine water needs.

-Question by Chairman Boyer, what percentage of irrigation water returns to the aquifer? The answer is that it depends on conditions.

-Question about evaporation. Not significant compared to arid states.

-Question about the Hogtown Creek fecal contamination. GRU releases are not intentional or purposeful. GRU gets fines for releases of untreated water.

AFCD – Executive Director Charlene Meeks reported:

- Area II meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Trenton Women's Club.
- September 26-27 will be the AFCD Annual Meeting. Location will be the Hilton on UF Campus there will be training, partner reports and training in partner relationships.
- The Certified District Official training thru FSU's Institute of Government will begin in September.

Advisory Members – No significant response, will bring up again at the next meeting.

New Business

-Community involvement.

What can be done to increase our impact? What have we done? We are interested in educational aspects. We need to get a plan to have something in place for the next school year.

WB – We would like to have a liaison with local municipal boards.

JV- Has contacts with the School Board.

WB – Suggestion that County, Municipal staff and DEP be placed on the email notification list for our meetings. Interaction is important.

PS – Jennifer McElroy from GRU is to attend the next meeting.

PS- Will continue 4H contacts.

AM- Will continue FFA contact.

Presentation at the Newberry Commission Meeting

Chairman Boyer presented a PowerPoint to the Commission about the District.

Supervisors Sell and Matthews were present also.

Presentation to the Hawthorne Commission Meeting

Chairman Boyer presented essentially the same presentation as to Newberry. Chairman Boyer spoke about partnerships. No other Supervisors were able to attend.

-There were questions about presentations at parks and other locations. There were offers of property where land judging contests and practices could be held.

Supervisor Matthews explained that is necessary to put on a land judging contest. Spoke about the difficulties with local participation.

-We would like to locate sponsors for scholarships. The ask needs to be made before the school year begins. Question about whether or not a separate bank account would be needed for scholarship money.

Dates to Remember:

C.A.R.E.S. Meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm, Suwannee Valley IFAS Center (Live Oak)

AFCD Area II Meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>, Trenton Women's Club 10:00am

Next Board Meeting -June 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm, Alachua Chamber of Commerce

Annual Financial Report is due, June 30th

September 26-27 AFCD Annual Meeting

## Supervisor Comments

PS – Do a few things and do them well

JV – Happy about partnerships

PL – Business Cards and brochures

Need headshots for business cards. Question as to whether the District should pay for the cards or the individual Supervisors.

Climate fair sounds like a good thing to attend

WB – Do we want to go back to NRCS building to meet or continue to meet at the Alachua Chamber offices? AM & MJ related the size of the room. Charlene noted that the meeting schedule has been sent to FDACS to be published in the FAR. JV suggested that meeting places could also be at Life South, Santa Fe College, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, and the Blount Center

PL – Showed a mockup of the proposed brochure. Would like to distribute them when presentations are done. JV asked that the brochure be sent to the Board members.

WB- Would like to see the Board members attend presentations.

WB- Help needed with uploading agendas and minutes to WordPress.

Charlene reported that she is getting someone to assist with training. She is working with a District employee that has WordPress experience.

WB-Do districts need to have a District email? Will look at creating a master email list that will go to everyone for inbound emails. Will create 5 individual emails. Wants uniformity for Board member emails. Question as to whether there should be an email “trail” for public records requests. AM noted that the public records request email needs to be monitored so that responses are timely.

Charlene encouraged the use of separate Board emails rather than personal emails.

AM- Noted that because of the Public Records Law, only agendas and minutes should be sent to the Board members with no feedback.

Monica suggested that contact should be made with UF Extension. Cindy Sanders is the Extension Livestock Agent. Contact at 352 955-2402 or [sanders1@ufl.edu](mailto:sanders1@ufl.edu)

Motion (JV) to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> (PS), motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm