

Alachua Soil and Water Conservation District  
October 30, 2023  
Alachua Chamber of Commerce  
14801 Main Street

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Boyer at 5:40

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as presented. Motion (PS) Second(PL). Motion passed.

No changes to the bank balance.

No mail to review.

#### Partner Reports

NRCS – DC Jones reported that we are in the new budget year. Working on EQUIP. also covering Madison & Taylor counties, will not be at the November meeting, will send a representative. Most Applications in Alachua County are for pasture lands, forestry is second. Explained the aspects of EQUIP for pastures lands, fencing, water systems, soil testing, prescribed grazing. Forestry is site prep, burning, improvement. Question re:invasive species. This would be included if there is a massive invasion. Batching deadline is 11/17.  
FDACS/OAWP – No report

Old Business – None

#### New Business

- I. Discuss/create a plan to partner with municipalities for workshops regarding invasive species. EQUIP applications can be made anytime, if the deadline is missed, it rolls over to the next year. The priority is not time, but location, importance.  
(PS) The seminar would be to hold informational sessions to let growers know about workshops.  
(WB) Would be in contact with municipalities to setup sessions. Possibly 2 per municipalities.  
Paul Still – working on a multi-county program for cost share information. Unsure of the emphasis on municipalities.  
(WB) purpose of the workshops is to get information out to farmers. Will work with the local cities to host the workshops. Have NRCS there.  
Paul – there are other programs beside EQUIP, the presentations should include information about them.  
(WB) Alachua County is harder to get landowners together. Thought is to take it to the local municipalities instead of having a meeting with everyone in one place. Newberry requested that we provide information. We need to get started on planning the format. Who would be involved. NRCS, SRWMD, etc., present the information from several sources.  
Paul – re:forestry. Does Alachua County currently have a county forester.

Monica – forestry has different deadlines.

(WB) Would want to have all available partners.

Paul – Include Alachua conservation Trust.

(PL) When we do workshops, we need to have a synopsis of what is to be covered.

The Supervisor for each District should be part of the planning and presentation.

(WB) Newberry and Hawthorne are on board with doing this.

(PL) Is there any incentive to get people to attend.

Money and food are incentives, but not guarantees.

(WB) Get FDACS, Forestry involved. Get suggestions as to who to include.

(PL) Have information at the November meeting.

Paul – The multi county meeting is scheduled for February. Include Extension.

(WB) Reach out to UF Soils Dept., would like them as partners.

## 2. Proposal for Appropriation (attached)

(WB) What do we do with the proposal?

(AM) This is a product of the Seminole SWCD, would not want to forward it without Permission of the Seminole SWCD. WB will contact.

Paul – will be meeting with the Bradford legislative delegation. Figures in the Proposal may be based on the AFR.

## 3. Request from AM to apply for a Clay Electric Grant. Motion (AM) second (PS). Motion Passed. This may be a funding source for the invasive workshops.

Discussion of solar energy installations as a net loss of farmlands.

(PS) Attended the Santa Fe Springs Protection forum. Presentation of high-definition stream sampling.

Paul – Wants to work with ASWCD on Santa Fe River projects. Setting, MFL's, etc. (WB) willing to work with groups to make ASWCD meaningful.

## Upcoming Dates:

EQUIP deadline is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Next ASWCD Meeting Monday November 27<sup>th</sup>.

December 14 is the next meeting of the Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum

SRWMD meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Bradford SWCD meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

## Supervisor comments.

(PL) programs from the Climate Change Summit. (attached) Lend a Hand if You Can handout.

(attached)

Meeting adjourned at 7:12