

Union County Soil Water Conservation District Regular Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2017

Present:

Duke Emerson - Treasurer

William Schretzmann - Supervisor

Laurel Schaafsma - Chair

Jess Rodriguez - Private Lands Biologist Landowner Assistance Program

Barton Wilder - OAWP

Monica Jones - NRCS Representative

The meeting was called to order, minutes were reviewed. A motion to pass the January minutes was second and a voted on. The vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Jess Rodriguez from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission presented a desire for private land owners to get involved with Prescribed Burns in Florida (PBA). Ms. Rodriguez is looking to gather a group of private land owners and have them "trained" in properly burning their lands. The reason being, increase burning for conservation purposes while decreasing the expenses for these burns. Mr. William Schretzmann will find out more information from Ms. Rodriguez.

A group discussion began on finalizing fair information attached to a display board consisting of the disposal of herbicides and pesticides on both residential and commercial, NCRS initiatives, BMP programs, and the main objective of presenting the NACD Poster and Speech contest. Some recommendations were to update some of the presented information on the display board. Mrs. Laurel Schaafsma will set up on the first day and be present at least one other day while Mr. Duke will be present on Friday. Boy Scout participation is still a possibility.

In association to the sharing of the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District booth, the board was informed by Mr. Wilder that the BSWCD would be willing to share their booth with the UCSWCD if the UCSWCD paid their share. A motion was made to pay the amount. A vote was held passing unanimously.

Moving on to the specifics of the Poster and Speech contest rules, contact forms, judges, dates, sponsors, etc. were discussed. Entry forms, dates, and rules were allocated to Mr. Duke Emerson to share with the schools. Judges were chosen (3) for the next UCSWCD meeting, March 28, 2017 to judge the posters and the speeches at that regular meeting. Sponsors were grouped in order to prevent double dipping. Mr. William will lead the Providence area, Mr. Duke Emerson will look at the local farm and garden businesses, and Mrs. Laurel Schaafsma will approach the more broadly known business within Union County.

Updates from Mr. Barton Wilder were there had been a change for the Cost Share Rules. Currently they are for the entire state of Florida. Changes will break up Florida into small areas to allow each area more opportunity for qualifying in Cost Share programs. This will go in effect next fiscal year.

Updates from Mrs. Monica Jones were Cost Share 2017 applications are in. Union County has one forestry application and one grazing land application in for consideration of the program.

A motion was made to adjourn, second, and then voted on, passing unanimously.