

**Union County Soil and Water District
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2013**

Present:

Delbert Smith, Chair
Pete Cameron, Deputy Chair
Al Oliver, USDA
Duke Emerson
Scott Tucker
Basil Bactawar
Hugh Thomas

Call to Order: Called to order by Chair, Delbert Smith at 6:37 pm

Minutes: The minutes of the June Meeting were accepted as submitted.

Correspondence: Electronic documentation forwarded to Board Members

Old Business:

Next meeting date and time were discussed. January 22, 1013 at 6:30 pm

New Business:

Basil stated the county commissioners budgeted in 3000.00 dollars for the soil and water board for next year starting in October.

Mr. Delbert stated the financial report is due before December 31st

Mr. Basil suggested we wait until next year to give money for an in class conservation project instead of rushing to get a project in before the fiscal year ends in October.

Mr. Hugh Thomas suggests we go to the county commissioner board to give a report of what we have done and thank them for the 3000.00 dollar budget.

Mr. Delbert made a motion to get Mr. Jon's article in the paper. It was approved. Mr. Basil will try to get it in the paper.

Mr. Al Oliver stated that the funding has run out for this year and the NRCS funding will be very limited this year, most of the money being allocated for the Everglades. However, people can still sign up for any program.

Mr. Delbert suggests we put in the paper that programs are still available.

Mr. Scott Tucker reported no complaints about pivots, approximately 8 to 9 hundred people at CARES meeting, and the Santa Fe Board passes out coloring books to kindergarten kids and we could go in with them and order some also.

Mr. Hugh Thomas said the book has been certified and some teachers use them in the curriculum.

Motion moved and passed the board purchase books for kindergarten kids contingent on superintendent approval.

Scott Tucker Information: Title: Conservation technician P.O. Box 37 Bronson FL 32621 office: 352-486-2672 extension 3 cell 352-213-3365

Hugh Thomas talked about ground water levels being up a little and the water level is normal up through June. Normal based on historical data. Basil noted there is a decreasing water level trend over the past 50 years. Hugh Thomas states it is a downward trend due to increased water use in the State.

Hugh Thomas stated that Cost Share program money still available

Approximately 7500 acres in Baker County being cleared to be turned into vegetable production. Consumption use permit in St Johns district for 15,000,000 gallons a day for carrots, sweet corn, etc. if they move ahead the MFL's in place will affect other districts.

Basil will be gone from Aug.8 to Aug. 24th.

Discussed Pete's rash, turned out to be a false alarm.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 p.m.