

UNION COUNTY SOIL & CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2013

Present:

Delbert Smith, Chair (Board Member)
Pete Cameron, Deputy Chair (Board Member)
Jon Croci, Secretary (Board Member)
Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension Officer
Al Oliver, USDA
Hugh Thomas, SRWMD
Scott Tucker, FDACS

CALL TO ORDER: Called to order by the Chair, Delbert Smith at 1828

CORRESPONDANCE: March 2013 Meeting Minutes read by Jon Croci and approved at 1840 by board.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

- Hugh Thomas discussed both the SRWMD and SJWMD water conservation program and incentives to regional farmers regarding the voluntary installation of water meters to be installed on agricultural equipment at no cost to the farmers. This program only applies to wells that are 8" in diameter or above or that produce 100,000 GPD. Incentives to regional well owners are that meters will be installed at no cost to the owners, and that pre-existing CUP's can be extended. By 2017 the water conservation program will be mandatory; meter costs and change in CUP requirements will be the exclusive domain of the well owners.
- North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting to be held on June 17, 2013.
- Jon Croci was unable to go to the May 2013 FLOW Meeting due to a family emergency.
- Scott Tucker discussed FDACS conservation programs that support the proper calibration and use of center-point conservation irrigation systems and GPS guidance systems.
- Al Oliver discussed a local assistance visit from USDA that provided support for a local cattle rancher's fence line destroyed by storm and the need for troughs to be installed on the cattle ranchers' property.
- Delbert Smith discussed local trenching procedures.
- Jon Croci discussed the local topography in Union County, Bradford and Alachua Counties using 1:100,000 scale maps and made a recommendation to obtain maps for the board. The motion was approved.
- Hugh Thomas discussed the status of regional water levels and discussed that the southern portion of the SRWMD was noticing more arid conditions and local farmers should plant crops accordingly.
- Santa Fe Springs River Basin Working Group will meet in 30 May 2013.
- Group discussed the importance of water quality especially with regards to nutrient loading (nitrogen and phosphorous) with respect to unpermitted and improperly

maintained septic fields that could be adversely increasing nitrogen levels and directly impact TMDLs.

- Group discussed use of Department of Agriculture mobile irrigation labs used to monitor the effectiveness of center pivot irrigation systems by gathering data, creating a viable report through the use of quantitative data and making recommendations to farmers on proper operations and maintenance procedures.
- Hugh Thomas and Scott Tucker discussed that center point irrigation systems be checked every three (3) years although the systems only have to be checked a minimum of five (5) years by regulatory driver. This is due to the fact that center point irrigation systems can be easily thrown out of initial manufacturers' calibration.
- County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) recognition dinner to occur 27 June 2013 in Live Oak, Florida.
- Basil Bactawar discussed current budget and Jon Croci discussed value in obtaining an in-focus projector for monthly meetings.
- Board discussed the validity of Hugh Thomas's "Cost Share Irrigation Program Presentation" and made a request that he give the presentation to the Union County Commissioners.
- Jon Croci requested that the Board Meeting Minutes be posted via the Internet and the Local Library.
- Pete Cameron discussed transects and hydrology.
- Board discussed transects and the impact on regional tributaries and wetlands and inter-relationship between lateral flow and groundwater.

REPORTS:

- Members at the board meeting were furnished with meeting minutes from April 2013

OTHER:

- NA

ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at @1952.