

UNION COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

26 November 2013

Present:

Mr. Delbert Smith, Chair

Mr. Pete Cameron, Deputy Chair, Secretary Mr. Duke Emerson, Treasurer Mr. Jon Croci (Board Member)

Ms. Monica Jones, NRCS Representative

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairman, Delbert Smith at 1850

Old Business:

In the September meeting, Jon Croci reported the purchase of a laptop computer and projection system. In this October meeting, he demonstrated its operation. He also suggested setting up an email account for communication between board meetings (in accordance with Florida's sunshine law), particularly to set agendas for subsequent meetings. This suggestion was readily accepted by all and Jon gave instructions in how to set up the email address on the members' home computers.

Delbert Smith reported that he had delivered to Union County first graders the 240 conservation activity books voted for purchase in the September meeting. The books are published in Columbia County and use images/make references to natural phenomena located there (Itchetucknee river, etc). Delbert said that he would solicit suggestions to insert some references to Union County in the next edition.

New Business:

Monica Jones mentioned an upcoming land judging contest in Gilchrist County and suggested that Union County students might want to participate. Duke Emerson was appointed to meet with Junior and Senior FFA advisors to assess interest in forming land judging teams to enter the competition.

Monica has four current applications for NRCS cost sharing in Union County: two slash pine plantings, a new fence, and troughs. She has sixteen on-going cost share contracts in Union County.

Pete Cameron attended a stakeholders meeting conducted by the Suwannee River and St. John's River Water Management Districts (WMD). The purpose of this meeting was to allow the WMDs to respond to a peer review of their Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) document by University of Florida scientists. The conclusion of the WMD personnel was that they had sufficiently responded to the comments of the reviewers and that they would make some modifications to the document and submit it to the legislature by the spring deadline. Several stakeholder representatives felt that in the rush to meet the deadline of the legislature, justice was not being done to the peer review process. They suggested that the peer reviewers be present at the next stakeholder meeting in December to evaluate and respond to the WMD changes in the document.

Mr. Cameron expressed the personal opinion that since the lower Santa Fe river MFL was judged to be "in recovery" and many recovery strategies were being considered, the time was ripe for any group with

a good idea for conserving water to obtain WMD funds (i.e. the Union County Soil and Water Conservation Board).

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours