

UNION COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

22 October 2013

Present:

Mr. Delbert Smith, Chair, Treasurer
Mr. Pete Cameron, Deputy Chair, Secretary
Mr. Duke Emerson, Board Member
Mr. Jon Croci, Board Member
Mr. Scott Tucker (FDACS)
Ms Monica Jones (NRCS)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairman, Delbert Smith at 1830

Old Business:

Jon Croci confirmed the purchase of the laptop and projector that will be used by our board members in reporting new information to the board (such as downloaded presentations by other groups) and in making presentations outside the board meetings. The laptop and the projector are up and running (software loaded/ password protected/and systems checked both mechanically and using local wireless).

New Business:

Water Shortages

Jon Croci read an article concerning an upcoming water shortage in central Florida from the September 2013 edition of the Florida Specifier. A consortium of water experts concluded that given population growth expectations, central Florida will not have enough water to meet demand (over the next twenty years, predicted 40% increase in demand) even if conservation measures are enacted.

Comments among board member were that this is the same story all over the state.

In a general discussion of conservation measures, Delbert Smith noted that new homes may have shower water regulators and low water use toilets.

Jon Croci summarized another article from the September 2013 edition of the Florida Specifier, reporting that SJRWMD will support Ardmore Farms, which is asking for an increased allotment in its CUP (consumptive use permit). What got Jon's attention in this article was the reasoning of the Water Management District in supporting approval of the request by Ardmore. SJRWMD stated that impacts to local lake levels caused by Ardmore withdrawals from the aquifer would not reach violation level until after the current permit expires in 2018. The implication is that when Ardmore reapplies in 2018, then the WMD would cite a violation of the MFL.

The water shortage topic being the order of the day, Delbert Smith pointed out that since Union County is a confined area (a layer of clay prevents rain

water from directly leaching into the aquifer), we lose a great deal of floodwater that rushes down the rivers to the ocean. His suggestion was that we need to hold this water long enough for it to seep down past the confining layer. In light of this, he said that we need to educate homeowners on this issue because when they have floodwater in their yards, they are likely to complain about it and pursue a solution that gets rid of the water. If we can educate the younger people, he said, we will have a generation growing up that regards the floodwater as a benefit and not an inconvenience.

In regards to this, Jon Croci said that we should “teach the teachers” and they can pass on the knowledge to their students.

Replacement for Al Oliver as Local NRCS Agent

Monica Jones attended the meeting as the new NRCS agent, replacing Al Oliver who has been reassigned. Since the fiscal year for NRCS projects is ending, she had no new business to report at this time.

FDACS

Scott Tucker reported that all cost share dollars were allocated for the fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000.