

May 24, 2016 UCSWCD Board Meeting

Present:

Laurel Schaafsma - Chair

Duke Emerson - Treasurer

Pete Cameron - Secretary

Buddy Finley - Supervisor

William Schretzmann - Advisory Member

Barton Wilder - FDACS/WMD Environmental Specialist III

David Nistler - Union County Ag. Extension Agent

Charlene Richburg - State AFCD Coordinator

The meeting opened with a discussion of the requirement for each Soil and Water Conservation District to have a website. The board had voted to send \$180 to the AFCD webmaster to create a website and maintain it. However, Charlene Richburg told us that the webmaster was no longer in that position and for \$160; we could get a domain and page. This means we would have to either transfer our information to the page or pay someone to do it. Also, still in the air would be whether there is a yearly fee to maintain the site. The issue is still open.

William Schretzmann was nominated to fill seat 2 vacated by Delbert Smith. Notice of this change will be sent to FDACS Office of Water Management and to the local election supervisor.

Pete Cameron added information on the proposed phosphate mining processes. His sources were the mining plan submitted to the Bradford County Commission (public record) and discussion with Paul Still. Pete corrected something he said in a prior meeting regarding the sand/clay/polymer mix that would be used to fill in the mining pits and be covered with the overburden (original soil dug from the surface

of the land to the top of the phosphate layer). In the HPSII Kleinfelder mining plan, it said that the sand/clay/polymer mix would first be blended in with the overburden and then put into the mining cuts. This, Pete said, sounded like a more acceptable plan (more stable soil mix).

Pete also noted that one chart in the plan showed that the percent of land devoted to pasture before and after the mining would increase by a significant amount due to (in Pete's opinion) the removal of forest and the choice not to replace it.

Pete said that one of his main worries is that the Santa Fe and New Rivers will no longer be clear during the 30 years of mining. Paul Still said that there would be no turbidity (clay) in the aquifer and in the rivers if the state officials do their job.

Laurel, David Nistler, and Charlene Richburg reported on the Area 2 AFCD meeting in which posters for the annual poster contest were shown and speeches for the speech contest were given. Dave Nistler was impressed by the quality of the student submissions.

Laurel reported on the city of Lake Butler water situation. She noted that the SRWMD had granted a 20-year consumptive use permit (CUP) for Lake Butler to, if needed, drill 10" wells and pump water from two of its properties in Union County. This issue was brought up because Lake Butler has water quality issues (contamination by surface water) and is trying to repair old wells. Laurel did not know if Lake Butler was thinking of using its CUP option.

Charlene Promoted the AFCD's July 30,31 meeting in Ocala. She said that new supervisors could get in free if they attended the supervisor training session on Friday. However, it was her opinion that the most valuable session would be Jack Gaskins Saturday presentation on what the districts needed to do be in compliance with state regulations.

Barton Wilder said that in mid-July FDACS would be accepting applications for next year's cost share projects.