

November 29, 2016 Union County Soil and Water Conservation District

Present:

Laurel Schaafsma -- Chairman

Pete Cameron -- Secretary

Duke Emerson -- Treasurer

Barton Wilder -- FDACS/WMD Representative

Monica Jones -- NRCS Representative

Dave Nistler -- Union County IFAS Agent

Charlene Richburg - State AFCD Coordinator

The meeting opened with a vote to approve the August and September minutes and to approve the dates for the meetings for the upcoming year.

Next on the agenda was a breakdown of the upcoming year's budget. Duke Emerson set forth the following items for board approval:

Allocation:	\$1,500.00
Annual AFCD dues:	\$200.00
Bradford/Union County Fair Supt.	\$300.00
Youth Education Programs	\$200.00
Operating Expenses	\$175.00
Mileage	\$200.00
National ACD contribution	\$25.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00

Items requiring a vote of board members were the annual AFCD dues, the contribution to the national ACD organization, and the budget as a whole. Approved

Charlene Richburg next addressed a few of her concerns as State Coordinator. She gave dates on the student speech contest. The area winner will be decided in late April and this person will go on to the state competition. More details in January. Similarly with the poster contest. In additions, she said that her office will be sending out a survey to all districts to determine what training the supervisors themselves want.

Monica Jones reported that her office is promoting a Conservation Stewardship Program, which is essentially an extension of the EQIP program. For those who have qualified and been awarded cost share for EQIP and have further needs to enhance their existing work, a yearly CSP payment can be awarded (if approved). For the FY 2018 EQIP program, there have been two applications in Union County for slash pine.

Barton Wilder said that his department is promoting alternate crops for farmers who go from one nutrient- and water-intensive crop to another without a break. To interrupt the cycle with a less intensive crop such as sod will help the future of Florida farming in the long run.

Barton reported on his visit to Duke Emerson's farm for implementation of BMPs. Duke's well was found to be too close to animal activity and he will have to build a cement collar around the well head to prevent manure-carrying water from going into his well during storms. Also, a mineral and supplemental feeding station was found to be too close to a wetland and must be moved.

Lastly, Laurel cited a need for an FDACS BMP manual for homeowners with a small agricultural outlay (goats, pigs, gardens, etc.). Barton said that it was a good idea and his department is coming out with such a manual in the near future.

The board decided that there will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 24.