**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

**Matt Warren – FDACS Sarah Hager – Honored Guest / VSO**

**Laina Durrance – BMP Technician Bo Rich – BMP Technician**

**Jona Bosques– County Extension Agent Ellen Cruz – Regional Director - FDACS**

**HARDEE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**And**

**PEACE RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**316 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 101**

**WAUCHULA, FL. 33873**

**The Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District-Boards met at 9:00am on 6/27/2024.**

**IN ATTENDANCE WERE THE FOLLOWING:**

**PEACE RIVER BOARD MEMBERS**

**~~Dan Ryals - Chairperson~~**

**Jim Selph – Supervisor**

**~~Ken Harrison – Supervisor~~**

**Trey Barnwell – Treasurer**

**Phil Turner- Vice Chairperson**

**HARDEE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Roy Petteway - Chairperson**

**Charles Matheny - Treasurer**

**Clint Hunnicutt - Supervisor**

**Dustin Maddox – Supervisor**

**Larry Davis – Vice Chairperson**

1. **Chairperson Roy Petteway called the meeting to order @ 9:03am.**
2. **The supervisors reviewed minutes from the last meeting (3/28/24) and Dustin Maddox motioned to approve said minutes, Charles Matheny seconded that motion, and it passed with approval of all present.**
3. **Charles Matheny, Treasurer HSWCD presented the financial report after which a motion to approve that report passed unanimously.**
4. **PRSWCD’s Treasurer, Trey Barnwell, reviewed their financial reports after which a motion to approve was called and passed with the approval of all present.**
* **Chairperson Petteway thanked Sarah Hager for all her hard work filling in after Marty Rowan retired in December 2023 AND for working through the grueling state audit with results that showed as expected, Hardee & Peace River Soil & Water Conservation Districts are active and used by all the communities we serve.**
* **Mr. Petteway also introduced, the new Soil & Water Conservation Coordinator, Jennifer Gough, who spoke briefly about being a hometown girl growing up in agriculture, farming and ranching and looking forward to working with this board to help protect that way of life for Florida’s future as best we can.**
1. **FDACS, Matt Warren, reported that all BMPs were paid before the contract end date of June 30th and the current Cost Share Contract will be extended and additional money will be coming in for a new contract (through 2025).**
	1. **Producers are interested and contacting Matt and his team to learn more about the offerings and signing up, so the word is out.**

**FDACS…. continued**

* **Matt said with the new CS contracts the state will have an online list of what can be reimbursed and will be looking for data to support the use and viability of the techniques and practices implemented by growers/producers to base reimbursement at a range of 60%-90% depending on what the data shows.**
	+ **Ex. Data- *use of a flail mower and cover crops to reduce herbicide use.***
* **Clint Hunnicut questioned the actual process and implementation “on the ground” of such data gathering and who, when, where, and how is this management going to occur. Matt responded that the state would provide more information in the future.**
1. **Jona Bosques reiterated the search for a multi-county Citrus Agent is still on, candidate interviews have occurred, and the process is in motion, but not going forward at a speedy pace even though the counties really want a person in place. Jona was hopeful about the Residential Horticulture position because there has been strong public interest in a Master/Gardener program here in Hardee County.**
2. **The first draft of Citrus BMP manual is available for review (comments)?? Nancy Lane FFVA office**

***Also, an update on the new conference room that has a capacity of one hundred people will start construction later in the week and finish by fall. Jona stated that the Pesticide Testing Center will phase out of the Extension Office.***

**No old business reported from either district’s board members.**

1. **Ms. Gough updated everyone on the following topics.**
	1. **Annual Financial Reports for both Peace River and Hardee SWCD were submitted and verified (accepted) by the state, for FY2023.**
	2. **The state of Florida requires that each supervisor complete Form 1 Financial Disclosure online with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics – by July 1st, every year.**
	3. **Election update – Charles Matheny is all set for Hardee’s election.**
		1. **Desoto County SOE office (Callie) per phone conversation assured me everything is complete in her office as well for election in Desoto.**

**The Florida Legislature passed a law requiring all Special District elected or appointed officials to receive 4 hours of ethics-specific training *each year* to be completed by December 31st of the year their term begins.**

**The next meeting on the schedule will be 9:00am on Thursday, September 12, 2024, @ Hardee Extension Service office.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jennifer Lee Gough**