



Association of Florida Conservation Districts AFCD

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OFFICERS:

Eva Webb, President
John Chamberlain, 1st Vice President
Gary Booker, 2nd Vice-President
Paul Still, Secretary/Treasurer
Wilbur Dean, Past President

Jack Bragg Area I Vice-President
Misty Penton Area II Vice-President
Andrew Jackson Area III Vice-President
Deborah Schafer Area IV Vice-President
John O'Connor Area V Vice-President
Louise King Area VI Vice-President

AFCD Board of Directors Meeting Meeting Minutes 08-09-2009

The Association of Florida Conservation District (AFCD) Board of Directors held a meeting at the 2009 Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida on August 9, 2009

Board Members in attendance included:

Eva Webb-President/Palm Beach SWCD (at 8:25)
John Chamberlain-1st Vice President/Alachua SWCD
Gary Booker-2nd Vice President/Okaloosa County
Paul Still-Secretary/Treasurer/Bradford SWCD
Wilbur Dean-Past President/Levy SWCD (at 8:25)
Deborah Schafer- Area IV Vice President/Seminole SWCD
John O' Connor-Area V Vice President/Manatee River SWCD
Thaddeus Hamilton- Broward SWCD
Archie Matthews-Deputy Vice President/Alachua SWCD
Louise King-Area VI Vice President.
Andy Jackson-Area III Vice President
Misty Penton-Area II Vice President
Nadine Foley-Area IV Deputy Vice President/Lake SWCD (at 3:20)

Others in attendance included:

Michelle Thatcher, Executive Director;
DJ McCabe, AFCD Resource Coordinator
Clegg Hooks, FDACS
Ed Wright, NRCS
Susan Clary, Orange SWCD
Jackie Bailey, Highlands SWCD

Board Members not able to attend included:

Jack Bragg-Area I Vice President/Santa Rosa County

John Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 8:10, welcome everyone.
Guest introduction included a round table of self introductions.

John Chamberlain on the behalf of AFCD presented Clegg Hooks with an award of appreciation.

NRCS Report: Ed Wright reported nothing beyond what Michele Laur reported.

FCDEA Report: Jackie Bailey reported an attendance of 12 employees at their meeting, collected \$ 1,050 dollars at the silent auction compared to last year that was only \$650. FCDEA plans to use the money to set up scholarships and work toward getting employees to training sessions they need.

FDACS Report:

Clegg Hooks confirmed the new contract is in place. John Costigan spoke with Clegg and advised him that if AFCD would like he could have talked for a lot longer and answered more questions. People were torn between what sessions to attend. Next time he can speak solo for lot longer and deal with questions in group and not have to answer individual questions over the year. Paul Still suggests having regional meetings to let other people come that cannot do the annual meeting. Clegg Hooks advised that he cannot promise that he could attend 6 area meetings but maybe able to find use the area meeting as a certain training sessions.

Congratulated AFCD on their legislative efforts, and he would like to mount effort much earlier jointly with AFCD. He is currently seeing more efforts from individual supervisors than he has in the past 20 years and wants to work with AFCD to help them be successful in their endeavors. The 50k put back in the budget was earmarked money not new money, would like to see new money generated. Misty Penton spoke to the need to have the 50k earmarked to be in compliance. Asking for brainstorms on ways to make new monies. Andy Jackson question for FDACS and NRCS, do we need a MOU? It was created and NRCS, AFCD , FCDEA, FDACS, and extensions had agreed to sign it so it was done to whether water management was to be included. Lost the signing opportunity when commissioner did not show up. Clegg Hooks answer--, districts are already tied to 582 and does not need the MOU. John Chamberlain wondered is Bronson would sign now as outgoing commissioner.

Past Presidents Report: Wilbur Dean reported that AFCD has had a wonderful meeting. Breakout sessions were quite informative.

Presidents Report: Eva Webb reported that she has received the biggest positive reports regarding the food at the conference. Given attendance at meals, could have used another table setup during the meals for overflow. Eva Webb commended Michelle and DJ for their hard work. Need time to fill out survey. Michelle Thatcher will send out email to ask for survey results. **Check to Stephen Monroe for \$250 and get out ASAP.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Co-Chairs Report: not present, Michelle Thatcher will present speech topic online for everyone to vote on . National level speech topic is set 2010 Stewardship theme, CONSERVATION HABITS-HEALTHY HABITATS. Would like to see a time frame of 1 hr for speech contest. This year ran over 20 minutes. Andy Jackson would like to know when it will be set by. Barbara Gill has the suggestions and is not here. Andy Jackson's district will be entering the schools next week and talk to the teachers to be part of their planning. **Michelle Thatcher will call Barbara Gill on Monday and get an email vote.**

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Per Paul Still advised that AFCD needs to apply for state tax exemption number, cost maybe \$25.

Wilbur Dean made a motion to pay bills as discussed. Cowboy poet and awards. Deborah Schafer seconded the motion, motion passed 10-0.

Reimbursement needed for Florida Awards for \$187.85. Michelle Thatcher has not seen email regarding status of promised funds, Andy Jackson will be emailing what needs to happen and send thanks to commissioner for \$650.

Paul Still made a motion to file for state exempt status, Misty Penton seconded, and motion carried 10-0

Paul Still made a motion to transfer monies of \$2,321.75 from operating account to Ellis Putnal account. John Chamberlain seconded, motion carried 10-0

Andy Jackson advised the board that his travel expense discussed at previous board meeting was approximately amount already discussed \$1,687.77. Motion made by Paul Still to pay travel expenses, John Chamberlain seconded the motion, motion carried 10 - 0.

Operating account discussion needed? Per Paul Still advised that AFCD will have something around 24k carry over to new fiscal year. Assuming no penalty on late filing of 501c3, and will need to find out if we need an attorney to change from fiscal to calendar year.

Motion made by John Chamberlain to adopt a whistle blower policy, Misty Penton seconded the motion, motion carries 10-0.

Per Paul Still, Ellis Putnal will be doing transfer to CD, then establishes a saving account and have a CD balance of around 10k. Paul Still requested guidance on what kind of CD to establish. Motion made by Wilbur Dean that AFCD doesn't invest the CD more than two years, Andy Jackson second motion, and motion carries 10-0.

Per pledges made at previous session, need to send invoice to Gary Booker for Yellow River to donate \$200 to the Ellis Putnal account. Send invoice to Thaddeus Hamilton for \$100 for Ellis Putnal donation.

NEW BUSINESS:

John O'Connor will look for Ellis Putnal's old brochure and get color photo of Ellis Putnal to help with campaign to solicit funds for Ellis Putnal. Ellis family might donate more money per Andy Jackson. Make check out to AFCD with memo showing Ellis Putnal. Monies will be put into saving then transferred after year end when a statement shows how much interest. Per Misty Penton would like to see a goal of 50k totals. Per Paul Still already has goal of 10k per year for 3 years to get the account to 50k.

Set next board meeting Sept 3, 2009 at 1-5.

Andy Jackson handed out documents that need to be shared; John Chamberlain will find a policy book from the old organization and give to Eva Webb.

Per John Chamberlain we need to define what it means to AFCD to be a 501c3 and disseminate information to districts...per Louise King we can now write grants... hard work to find and write... but they are there. Districts that are not 501c3 can partner with AFCD and get grants.

Annual Meeting Debriefing:

Annual meeting, John O'Connor thought was pretty good was the sharing of the success stories. Like the Seminole success story and grass story... Area 4 has environmental landscaping ordinance-- Would like to see that passed around. South Dade has composting, Paul Still has couple tools, Marion County has 35ton manure a day to compost. Would like to see AFCD and districts get more technical work towards getting a few committees that would bring certain topic together to present resolutions have chair person that reports to board, so as not to lose topics. Andy Jackson concurs that there is a need for committees.

DJ McCabe: would like to see more input and feedback for program edits prior to publication, need to give everyone an Agenda at general session, make sure titles are clearly visible on director name badges.

Ed Wright: liked ideal of brochure and the panel discussion that Deborah Schafer moderated, there was some talk outside the box for fund raising. Sumter and South Dade had great ideas. Have panel discussion on funding at next meeting. Question by Paul Still about local working groups was good "how many still have them?", only three hands were raised. But there may be a need to have local group line up with state needs because of ranking of priorities, process and funding. This will be

address by NRCS in the future so the local working groups will have more active input.

Strategic plan should show up more in working records.

Louise King: like topics, appreciated people that keep things on time. Glad we stayed on schedule. Food was great.

Gary Booker – Liked the entertainment, Food was good. Nothing for kids. Panhandlers were a concern.

Paul Still– need to focus on working groups. Educate working group, get them involved. Make that program work again. Would like to see the 6k going to that program... need to be more active in the state technical committee; Need to get on the committee; Paul Still is currently attending the meetings. Eva Webb appointed Paul Still to be on that committee; We need to focus on the urban area and invasive plants is key; Would like to see AFCD sign a Joint Forestry MOU..

Clegg Hooks: nothing further

John Chamberlain: next year meeting Marco Polo – disseminate information to all districts on where the next meeting is. Suggest we need to move the meeting to each area to show case that Area. We will need to work with area and district for help earlier in the planning stages for the annual conference. John O'Connor: suggest having board meetings at area meetings.

Nadine Foley – enjoyed working with everyone. Fill free to pull off information on web and share. Good to have commissioners in a forum earlier in the election process.

Susan Clary thinks state should get together more often. Sometimes feels isolated with problems and like the sharing. Eva Webb, maybe do a round table discussion with topic and then move to another table. Paul Still likes Susan's idea to do a couple meetings a year that is a shorter session with central location to keep the cost down. Hold at lower cost locations. Wants other people to let know when the board meeting is being held. **Show all invited on flyers, and conference call invitations.**

Andy Jackson wants to see a newsletter every quarter. Would like hard copy, email may leave some people out. Per Michelle Thatcher, printing and mailing cost maybe covered by FDACS. Susan offers to help with stories, has the time. **Andy Jackson wants to talk to Michelle Thatcher about mass mailings of newsletter.**

Archie Matthews: best Annual Conference he has ever been too. Appreciated be able to do district session

Misty Penton: brand new and blow away by organization and conference.

Wilbur Dean: AFCD needs to go forward with legislative actions.

Deborah Schafer: need longer general session, John Costigan ideal was good.
Good job to Michelle Thatcher and DJ McCabe

John O'Connor. Asking about logo handed at the general session – tabled till next meeting. Strategic plan was approved by the board and was disseminated to districts at general session. **Wants to add to next board meeting add to agenda at next board meeting.....** need to take ideas, capture then go forward. Need a facilitated group to get stuff into policy book. www.farmlink.org.

Eva Webb: when people want to be part of the success stories, can we ask them to send information to Eva Webb who can get the info to get Farm Bureau to print into booklets. Would also like to see the success stories online.

John motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned