



Association of Florida Conservation Districts AFCD

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OFFICERS:

Andrew Jackson, President
Earl Ziebarth, Vice-President
H. Marcus Edwards, 2nd Vice-President
John Chamberlain, Secretary/Treasurer

Don Walters Area I Vice-President
Blas J. Gomez Area II Vice-President
James D. Williams Area III Vice-President
Mark Cross Area IV Vice-President
John O'Connor Area V Vice-President
Eva Webb Area VI Vice-President

AFCD Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Friday, October 7, 2005 10:00 a.m.

**Location of Meeting, NRCS State Office
Gainesville, Florida**

Attendance: Andy Jackson, John Chamberlain, Wilbur Dean, Norma Ziebarth, Phil Giorno, Linda & John O'Connor, Teresa Owens, Barbara Gill, Michelle Thatcher, Michael Barr, James D. Williams and Nancy Barnes.

There was no quorum at starting of meeting. John O'Connor moved to go ahead and hold AFCD meeting. This motion was seconded by Wilbur Hand and was so carried.

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with introductions by all present.

Introductions were made.

President Jackson asked the group if everyone had received their meeting notices. He stated that Mr. Marcus Edwards had not received his notice of the meeting. Michelle Thatcher asked if notice is being sent out to everyone about AFCD meetings. There was a discussion about meeting notices possibly being posted on AFCD web page.

John Chamberlain, AFCD Secretary/Treasurer, presented AFCD Financial Report. The ending balance as of 9/28/05 was \$ 11,677.54. A statement of \$153.00 from Jordan Agency Insurance for bond insurance will be due before the next Board of Directors Meeting. It was unanimously approved to pay bonding bill once it is received. Phil Giorno stated a question was raised by one of Volusia SWCD Supervisors concerning Volusia SWCD tax exempt number being applied to the AFCD Annual Meeting final cost, paid to the Mission Resort Inn for the Annual Meeting. He stated that Volusia SWCD made all the arrangements with Mission Resort Inn for the annual meeting. He stated that AFCD gave a check for \$8,000.00 to Volusia at the end of the Annual Meeting to cover the cost of the meeting, with the understanding that any remaining balance be reimbursed to the AFCD. He stated that the amount of \$599.95 (balance remaining from meeting hotel bill) has been reimbursed to the AFCD. There was some discussion about obtaining grants and ways to obtain funding to hire a AFCD Secretary. Wilbur Dean moved that Treasurers Report be approved as presented. This move was seconded by John O'Connor and was so carried.

Minutes of previous meetings from the Annual Meeting were reviewed. There were corrections noted to minutes presented. A discussion was held about reflecting the changes to minutes concerning taxes being paid through the Volusia SWCD. There was brief discussion on the AFCDE not being qualified to file for tax exemption. John O'Connor stated that minutes in which hotel taxes were discussed not be changed. John O'Connor stated that there was no formal agreement between the Volusia SWCD and AFCDE for hotel expenses. He suggested these expenses be ran through Volusia SWCD with AFCDE reimbursing Volusia SWCD. He moved that since Volusia SWCD coordinated the meeting with Mission, today's minutes should reflect that AFCDE paid taxes owed to Mission Inn Resort through Volusia SWCD. This move was seconded by James D. Williams and was so carried. John O'Connor moved to approve all minutes presented from the Annual Meeting upon modification of changes. This move was seconded by James D. Williams and was so carried.

John O'Connor commented on the resolution process. He stated that the resolution process does not allow for a member to bring a resolution at the meeting. Resolution Process was discussed. Michelle Thatcher stated there is not adequate time for the Resolution Committee to look at resolutions submitted if someone brings one at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Hugh Thomas, DACS Representative, stated that Clegg Hooks could not attend and he was filling in for him. He stated that the AFCDE Annual Meeting went well. He stated that DACS was extending an opportunity for training for District Supervisors, and that the Department of Agriculture is willing to assist in getting training for supervisors. He stated that some response has been received on changes to the Supervisors Handbook. He noted once these changes are made a final copy will be made.

Ed Wright, NRCS Representative, presented the NRCS Activity Report. He discussed with the Board of Directors the possibility of funding being available through the Water Management Districts. He discussed with the Board some other funding possibly available. He stated that AFCDE could be an informative source on different grants. He stated that the Web page needed to be a priority in that it would supply information to districts. He informed the board that he has been working on a rough draft of a partnership agreement, to include the Water Management District.

Barbara Gill, AFCDE President, handed out her written report. She reported that six Florida District Employees would be attending the Annual Southeast Conservation District Employees Association Conference in November. Mrs. Gill discussed the AFCDE Membership drive.

Norma Ziebarth, AFCDE Auxiliary Representative, stated that she was thrilled with the outcome of the AFCDE Annual Meeting Auxiliary. She stated that she would like suggestions for a large item to sell for the next annual meeting. There was a brief discussion on auction ideas.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business brought to the floor.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jackson stated that the next Board of Directors Meeting needed to be set. There was a discussion about the third quarterly Board of Directors meeting being held in Tallahassee during the Legislative Conference. The possibility of teleconference was also discussed. It was noted that it would be a good idea for the AFCDE Board of Directors to go to different locations within the Soil and Water

Conservation Districts for their meetings which would give them an opportunity to showcase what the Board of Directors is doing. Michael Barr stated that Seminole would possibly be willing to host a meeting. After discussion, the next Board of Directors Meeting was set for January 6, 2006 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the NRCS State Office. It was decided that April's Board of Directors meeting be held in Tallahassee.

President Jackson stated that Craig Petrie has resigned from his seat on the Lake SWCD. He noted that Mark Cross is the Area IV Vice-President, and Mr. Petri is the Deputy Vice-President. This item was tabled until the next board meeting in order for someone to contact Mr. Cross to see who might possibly be willing to fill the seat. President Jackson stated he would review the by-laws on filling the seat.

President Jackson stated that he has asked Nancy Barnes, Supervisor of Suwannee County Conservation District, to chair the Education and Youth Committee. He stated that she was a Science Teacher who later became an Agricultural Teacher in Jr. FFA. He stated that Mrs. Barnes has volunteer to chair the education committee, until someone else is willing to serve. John Chamberlain moved to appoint Mrs. Nance Barnes as Chairman of the Education Committee upon President Jackson's recommendation. Wilbur Dean seconded the move and was so carried.

Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding between AFCD and NRCS was discussed with Edward Wright, NRCS, under the NRCS Report.

Discussion of speech topic for 2006 was discussed. There were several recommendations presented. Topics include: 1) How can Floridian's be Waterwise? 2) Water, a Right or Commodity? and 3) Where Will Water Come From in Our Future. John O'Connor stated that his County already had a speech topic, "Preserving Our Farmland", and was scheduled to have a contest in the upcoming weeks. He stated that AFCD had not set a topic and because of time they went ahead and submitted a topic to their teachers. It was noted that it was decided at the annual AFCD meeting to wait until NACD had chosen the theme for Soil Stewardship. President Jackson stated he thought that NACD would have had the theme, but at the time of the annual meeting NACD had not made a decision. It was in thought the speech topic could in line with the Soil Stewardship theme. Mr. O'Connor stated that they had to move out with it because of schedules of teachers. It was suggested to get the topics out that were presented and let districts choose from those topics presented. It was noted that that it would be hard for the judges to judge at the Speech Contest because points are given for being on the topic, and if there are several topics that would not be possible. It was noted that the speech topic needs to be addressed during a summer board meeting and announced at the annual meeting. After discussion John Chamberlain moved speech topic "Preserving Our Farmland" be added to submitted speech topics. Also, this year submitted topics be the choice of topics. This move was seconded by James D. Williams and was so carried.

John O'Connor stated that he would like to bring back item number one of the business item to the floor. He stated that he had looked at the set of by-laws he had. He stated according to the by-laws, Mark Cross needs to send us a name and confirm the person at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Planning of Legislative Conference was discussed briefly. Phil Giorno stated that he had done a lot of lobbying of the legislature on his own for Volusia SWCD. He stated that he thought Mr. Earl Ziebarth would like to work on the legislative committee. Michael Barr, Seminole SWCD Supervisor, stated that he did not want to serve on the Legislative Committee, but would like to help the committee anyway he could. Mr. Giorno stated that a date needed to be set, meetings set up and work on an agenda of what the AFCD would like to see legislature to do for them. It was noted that there needed to be a Chairman of

the Committee. Mr. Giorno stated that he knew that Mr. Ziebarth wanted to be involved with the committee. After further discussion Wilbur Dean was nominated to serve as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. John O'Connor moved that Wilbur Dean be appointed as the Legislative Committee Chairman. This move was seconded by John Chamberlain and was so carried. John Chamberlain added that Mr. Dean be the principle contact with NACD on legislative matters. James D. Williams seconded the addition and was so carried.

John Chamberlain moved that Phil Giorno be appointed as staff support for the AFCD Legislative Committee. This move was seconded by John O'Connor and was so carried. Phil Giorno stated he would present a date and arrangements at the next Board of Directors Meeting in January.

John O'Connor interjected that the Legislative Conference would be a prime opportunity to present the five resolutions passed at the AFCD Annual Meeting to the legislature.

The 2006 AFCD Budget was discussed. Phil Giorno stated that the annual meeting has passed and there is a model budget on the financial report, so it can be seen where adjustments can be made. He stated that he had a program where he could take the numbers from the financial report and punch them into the program and come up with a proposed budget. The 2005 AFCD Budget was reviewed and numbers were adjusted. The adjustment of the 2005 AFCD Budget for the 2006 Proposed Budget was balanced at \$50,000.00. Phil Giorno stated he would take these numbers back and work on the program then e-mail what he comes up with to everyone present. After further discussion John O'Connor moved that the \$50,000.00 budget discussed be set as a tentative preliminary budget. This move was seconded by Wilbur Dean and was so carried.

It was discussed to take the profit made from the AFCD Annual Meeting and bank it for two to three years to use as upfront funds for the NACD Southeastern Meeting that Florida will be hosting. It was also discussed the need for funds to hire an AFCD employee. After discussion John O'Connor moved that at end of the year 50 percent of profits be set aside for the national convention that will be hosted by Florida. This move was seconded by James D. Williams and was so carried.

There was a discussion on how annual meeting minutes, financial report, proposed budget and dues statements for 2005-2006 should be sent out to the district offices. It was noted that it could be posted on the WEB Page. President Jackson stated he would get in contact with Clegg Hooks, DACS, to see what they might be able to help us with.

It was noted that the bill for renewal of bond would be due soon in the amount of \$153.00. It was stated that the bill would be received before the next meeting and prior approval of payment needed to be made. Wilbur Dean moved that bond renewal in the amount of \$153.00 be paid upon receipt. This move was seconded by John O'Connor and was so carried.

There was a brief discussion on delegates to the Southeastern NACD Meeting in Houston, Texas. It was noted that the President and the Vice-President needed to attend. John Chamberlain moved that AFCD send Andy Jackson, President; Earl Ziebarth, Vice-President to the Southeastern NACD Meeting with expenses paid. Also, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee should also try to attend. This move was seconded by John O'Connor.

Orange County submitted a letter requesting a WEB Site link from the AFCD WEB Page. After discussion John Chamberlain moved to accept the request from Orange SWCD to link a WEB site from AFCD's WEB Page. This move was seconded by John O'Connor and was so carried.

Mr. O'Connor asked how the WEB page was maintained. There was a discussion on cost, etc. He then asked if an agreement has been made between the Volusia SWCD and AFCD. Mr. O'Connor stated that there needs to be a contract agreement between Volusia and AFCD that will provide services on the WEB Site designs and maintenance updates before any other District requests a link onto the WEB Site. John O'Connor moved that a contract agreement be obtained to provide services with WEB Site designs and maintenance update. This move was seconded by John Chamberlain and was so carried.

NACD WEB Page dues have not been received. John Chamberlain moved to pay NACD or Web page dues upon receipt and was so carried. It was noted that the DCA fees also have not been received. John Chamberlain moved to amend the previous move on payment to include paying DCA and NACD WEB Page fees. This amendment was seconded by Wilbur Dean and was so carried.

There being no further business, John Chamberlain moved the AFCD Board of Directors meeting adjourn. This move was seconded by Wilbur Dean and was so carried.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

CHAIRMAN