

Nassau Soil & Water Conservation District

March 4, 2024

Regular Meeting

5:30pm

INVOCATION: The invocation was led by Chairman Woehrle and the meeting convened at 5:34pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Caswell voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Supervisor Bellar. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Supervisor Wentz voted to approve the financial report, seconded by Supervisor Caswell. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lake Hampton/Thomas Creek – District Coordinator Cahill said there had been nothing new on Lake Hampton or Thomas Creek, however, she said she'd like to keep them both on the agenda so they do not fall to the wayside.

NEW BUSINESS: District Coordinator Cahill said she'd received an email from the state of Florida saying an audit of each district would be conducted. It is her belief that this audit has been ordered by the state of Florida due to the upcoming senate bill (1078) regarding abolishing soil & water districts in Florida.

DC Cahill said she'd been working with Kate Russell and John Carolin from Mauldin and Jenkins auditing firm to gather the information they've requested. DC Cahill said she'd would be meeting with them in person on March 11 and would report back to the board afterwards.

Chairman Woehrle said he would attend the meeting on March 11 as well.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

DC Cahill said she'd been in touch with numerous soil & water folks throughout the state of Florida regarding senate bill 1078. To the best of her knowledge, if passed the bill would effectively abolish all soil & water districts in the state, effective July 1.

Please see the following link detailing the bill in question:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1078>

DC Cahill said she had already reached out to Congressman Aaron Bean, Secretary of State Cord Byrd, Representative Dean Black, Senator Clay Yarborough, as well as Senator Travis Hutson.

Congressman Bean said that he was unfortunately still under a blackout order due to federal elections laws and cannot get involved in the matter.

Secretary Byrd said the situation did not fall under his purview but would help in any way he could.

Senators Yarborough and Hutson both replied and asked for further information. DC Cahill said she'd sent them the requested information and looked forward to hearing back from them.

Representative Black did not respond to any form of communication, unfortunately. DC Cahill said she would attempt to reach out to his Nassau County liaison, George Spicer.

DC Cahill said she would be following the situation closely and would let the board know immediately if anything new should arise.

DC Cahill said all of the information had been submitted to Hartke and Najimy, our accountants, for our annual review. She said she would send the report to the board as soon as possible.

DC Cahill reported that she would also be sending the annual budget request to the Nassau Board of County Commissioners but was waiting on the annual financial review to be completed.

DC Cahill said the special district fees had been paid and the commission on ethics report was submitted to the state of Florida. DC Cahill said the NSWCD had ended up paying late fees with the special district fee because the debit card the state had on file had expired, unbeknownst to her. She apologized profusely for this mistake and said she'd make sure it did not happen again.

Supervisor Cahill said she'd been in contact with Allen Moore from Duval County SWCD and would be sending him our annual donation to the Envirothon today. She conveyed that Allen had passed on his thanks for our continued support and contributions over the years.

DC Cahill said the bank accounts need to be updated and said she'd get together with Supervisor Wentz and Chairman Woehrle as soon as possible to get this done.

Individual Supervisor's Reports:

Chairman Woehrle said he'd received word that Mrs. Vivian Ritsma had passed away. Mrs. Ritsma served on numerous boards throughout the county including the planning and zoning board and was a lifelong avid supporter of her community and Nassau County. Nassau SWCD sends thoughts and prayers to the Ritsma family at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:07