



**ST. JOHNS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**111 Yelvington Road, Suite 4, East Palatka, FL 32131**  
**Telephone: (386) 328-5051 (Ext. 3)**

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## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** March 22, 2023

**Present:**

Chuck Owen, Chairman  
Joe Parker, Vice Chairman  
Bucky Sykes, Supervisor  
Evan Wilson, Supervisor  
Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque  
Sol Looker, FDACS  
Ayolane Halusky, Guest  
Gina Allen, Secretary

Owen called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes from the previous minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report approved for the amount as 2/28/23 - \$6,487.65.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Drone Update (Deep Creek): Ayolane Halusky of Earthkinship was introduced to the Board. Discussion on funding for flooding issues was discussed. Wilson has drone pilot set up and ready to go. Owen suggested to start filming at the mouth of the creek from the St. Johns River. Halusky suggested filming from Flagler Estates up to the creek also.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** Sol Looker, Environmental Consultant for FDACS, was introduced to the Board. Looker discussed new Sod BMP manual. Manuals needs to be updated every 5 years. Meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at Tater Farms to discuss SOD BMP manual. Looker explained the process of creating the BMP manuals. Research is gathered for the manuals to create a framework for decision-making then it can be published. Looker informed the Board of the FDACS/SWCD cost share program. Producers can apply for cost share for farm equipment through the program. Goal is to serve and protect water resources.

Owen discussed funding for Irridrain. Owen stated 100% funding for Irridrain is needed. Looker stated the Water Management District pays 50% through their cost share program.

Owen discussed water table levels. Water table levels have depleted over the years. Catching rainwater to irrigate was discussed. Looker stated producers use rainwater in other parts of the of the states. Food safety concerns would be an issue using rainwater in our area.

**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque-See Report:**

Chaparro-Feneque presented the NRCS/SWCD Civil Rights Agreement to the Board. Agreement was signed by each Board member.

Chaparro-Feneque suggested the Board submit a letter of concern to the NRCS State Conservationist on the Deep Creek drainage issue. NRCS engineer could do survey and submit it to the NRCS District Conservationist. Owen made a motion to submit the letter. Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital City Bank signature card for the checking account was discussed. Owen made a motion to remove former Chairman Nicole Crosby from bank signature card. Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Owen made a motion to add Bucky Sykes to the bank signature card. Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OPEN FLOOR:**

**ADJOURMENT:** There was no other discussion meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Next Board meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023.