

Okeechobee Soil and Water Conservation District

May Board of Supervisor Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time: 1:00pm

Location: 458 US 98 N, UF/IFAS Extension Office

Call to Order at 1:30pm

Mariano Corona-Chairman: Present

Jared Figley-Supervisor: Present

Donald Sellers, Jr.-Supervisor: Present

Douglas Burnham-Supervisor: Present

Glynn Rutledge-Treasurer: Present

- I. Motion to approve April 8, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Motion to approve April 23, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Motion to approve the April Financial Report as presented (Burnham/Sellers). Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Staff Program Reports
 - a) NRCS Report- District Conservationist, Carlos Torres is ranking for the May 15 deadline.
 - b) FDACS Report- Environmental Manager, Sheila Kitaif gave her report during the Local Work Group meeting prior to the Board meeting. Report is the same as April Minutes.
 - c) FSA Report-Jenny Hoover, Executive Director gave her report during the Local Working Group meeting prior to the Board meeting. The 2026 LFP (Drought) program is open until January 2027.
 - d) OSWCD Report-Program Specialist, Vicki Wheeler and Audrey Kuipers gave the OSWCD report. Three Okeechobee posters placed second in the State Poster Contest, a Stewardship display was at the County Library from April 23-May 5, continued monthly maintenance on website, attended Landowner Expo.

NRCS agreement expires September 30, 2027, BOCC workshop July 6 to request agreement, AFCD is struggling for membership, NACD is waiting on

the Sarasota grant closeout to amend the Okeechobee grant. Nine applications in Sarasota, Charlotte, and Manatee counties, and two in Okeechobee.

FDACS-OAWP cost share and technician contracts expire June 30, 2028.

Possible lead on a small farms and educator grant application. Monthly reconciliation appointments continue and the FY 26 Audit invoice was received for \$16,835.00.

District Administrator requested annual leave for July 9-10 and July 13-17.

V. Unfinished Business

- a) Candidate forms were handed to Supervisors Corona, Sellers, and Rutledge. Elections office accepting paperwork starting May 26. All Supervisors need to complete Form 1 Affidavits.

VI. New Business

- a) There was a misunderstanding that Okeechobee's Funded Agreement expired September 30, 2026. Kuipers discussed it with NRCS, and it was an error in their records. The Unfunded Agreement will not be needed until 2027. Reminder that NRCS has no intention of awarding Okeechobee SWCD another contribution agreement. We will have to bid for services if a solicitation is available. Kuipers is organizing training for staff to be able to offer and compete for services.

VII. Supervisor and Public Comments - None

VIII. Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- a) Board of Supervisors Meeting: June 10, 2026, 1:00pm- Canceled
- b) Florida Association of Special Districts: June 8-11, Orlando
- c) Public Risk Management of Florida: June 10-12, Sarasota
- d) Annual Financial Report; Department of Financial Services: Deadline June 30

IX. Adjourn Meeting at 2:15pm.

Approved at the September 7, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting.