

Minutes of the 2/17/2022 Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District monthly meeting.

Members present: Doug Doran, Teddy Seihler, Larry Corn, Christy Largacci, J. R. Newbold

Also present: Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque, Christian Christianson, Mrs. Feagle, Julio Perez

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am: (Gina Allen was unable to attend due to illness.)

A quorum of the board was present.

We did not review the minutes of the previous meeting or the financials. (will be approved at the next meeting)

Christian Christianson (UF/IFAS Hastings research station) gave an update on their Mag Grow Precision Sprayer evaluation. He reported that an evaluation of the uniformity of the Mag Grow sprayer was carried out by a team of both UF and Mag Grow staff. The farm trial done at a rate of 25 gallons per acre with both conventional spray equipment and the Mag Grow equipment yielded very similar uniformity results. The trials were evaluated by independently by both the UF/IFAS and Mag Grow teams. Based on the results of this study the board has decided not to recommend cost share with this equipment. Mr. Corn suggested that a test using ultraviolet light may provide additional useful information.

Teddy led a discussion of the proposed "raised bed garden" project. Julio Perez, Residential and Commercial Agent, reported on several options for raised bed garden kits. J. R. Newbold reported that Ravine Gardens State Park is interested to partner with a public information project related to community gardening. After lengthy discussion a motion was made by Teddy Seihler (after transferring chairman duties to Dough Doran) to allocate a budget of \$5,000.00 to a joint project, with UF/IFAS, Ravine Gardens State Park and the Putnam SWCD, to develop a raised bed gardening project. J. R., Julio and Paige Jones (of Ravine Gardens) will meet in early March to develop the outline of the project. They will report to the board at the next meeting.

Teddy reported that Gina will be spearheading a display for PCSWCD at the upcoming Putnam County Fair.

Yesmarie reported that the renovations to the NRCS offices will be completed soon. She also reported on the Memorandum between USDA & the SWCD. Teddy will sign the agreement on behalf of the board.

Yesmarie reported on the ongoing projects with cooperators in Putnam County. She is currently overseeing 18 different projects with total funding of around \$70,000. There are projects in the areas of; forestry, high tunnel agriculture, row crops and cattle. Yesmarie is handling these duties for Volusia County temporarily, until a new Conservationist is hired there.

Ms. Feagle reported on the Wildlife BMP program. She and Stacy Simmons will provide more information at an upcoming meeting. She also notified us of a Field Day on March 11th at a local cooperator's farm. There will be drone footage presented as a part of the program. This material was developed by a graduate of the SWCD sponsored Youth Drone School.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m

Minutes submitted by J. R. Newbold