



# SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF MADISON COUNTY, FL

James W. (Billy) Brown, Chairman • John Henry Phillips, Vice Chairman • Buck M. Carpenter, Secretary- Treasurer

February 21, 2024

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes for Madison SWCD Board Meeting- Regular Session – February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Billy Brown, Chairman of the Madison Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 9:02 a.m., Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District Conference Room. Supervisors present included: Mr. Billy Brown, Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr., Mr. Buck Carpenter. Others present included: Mr. Matt Yates, Mr. Eli Curl, Mrs. Nancy Plank, and OPPAGA Auditors: Ms. Kate Russell, Mr. John Carolin, Mr. David Roberts, Mr. Coleman Loftin, and Mr. Graham Sweeney.

Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. opened the meeting with a word of prayer and Mr. Buck Carpenter led the Pledge of Allegiance

### Administration- Mr. Billy Brown

- Mr. Billy Brown presented the agenda for the Madison SWCD Board Meeting- Regular Session, Wednesday, February 21, 2024, for adoption. Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion that the agenda be adopted; there was a second by Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. - the motion carried.
- Mr. Billy Brown presented to the Board the SWCD Regular Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2023 (no meeting in January 2024). Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; there was a second by Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. - the motion carried.
- Mrs. Buck Carpenter presented the Treasurers Report. Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion to approve the report as presented – Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. seconded the motion - the motion carried.

### SWCD Administration

Mr. Billy Brown shared that he watched a program about using Agricultural Sugar to spray crops every 10 days and will help with pest pressure and increase microbial activity in the soil. 3# per acre along with water. Minor elements can also function as a surfactant.

IFAS/UF Special Project – In the absence of IFAS/UF Representatives, Mrs. Nancy Plank gave reports from Dr. Sudeep Sidhu, State Extension Agronomist, that he was in California at a Cotton Specialist Conference. He sent his thanks to the Madison SWCD for our assistance given for the completed Special Research Project, and he will be presenting a new Special Research Project to the Madison SWCD Board at an upcoming meeting. He also shared that he utilizes Graduate Students to do data collection for research projects and is reaching out to all SWCDs for funding to help cover some of these costs (half Grant Funds/half SWCD Donation Funds). Also, in the absence of Mr. Joel Love, BMP Outreach and Education Coordinator, Mrs. Nancy Plank reported that Jay Capasso has accepted the Regional Water Extension Agent Position. Jay was previously the row crop agent in Columbia County and will be a valuable resource for us to utilize.

Conservation Technician Report – Mr. Eli Curl reported that he is working on his and Ms. Cetta Barnhart's IVs and Cost Shares. There are 192 enrollments in Madison, and he is covering 120 of the enrollments. Mr. Steven Monroe is servicing the Aucilla BMAP Area. Mr. Steven Smith has replaced

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Ms. Bonnie Pelaez Wolff, as the new Bureau Chief of Field Service for OAWP, and is familiar with the Madison area.

FDACS ES-III Report – Ms. Cetta Barnhart has resigned and is no longer the FDACS ES-III. Once a replacement is hired, they will be housed in Gilchrist/Levy County.

NRCS Conservationist – In the absence of the NRCS Conservationist – no report

MIL Report – Mr. Matt Yates with Resource Conservation Partners, LLC (RCP) reported that RCP is on track and there is a lot of Cost Share from Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), and RCP has been busy. Mr. Matt Yates led the training for a few of the South Florida Labs. RCP and the various Mobile Irrigation Labs (MIL) will continue to request the Scope of Work (SOP) from FDACS. Jay Capasso, Regional Water Extension Agent would like to go on a few MIL site visits with RCP.

Mr. Buck Carpenter gave the Association of Florida Conservation Districts Report (AFCD)

Mrs. Nancy Plank Reported that the 2024 Ecology Day will be held April 12, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the North Florida College Campus in Madison, FL.


Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion for the Madison SWCD to Participate in the 2024 Ecology Day with a Booth, and to present the Third Grade Poster Contest Winner Awards during lunch at this event. Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion for Mrs. Nancy Plank to make purchases for Ecology Day up to \$500 as needed (an Amended motion to also read) and to solicit donations from Local Partners. Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mrs. Nancy Plank shared the 2024 Poster Contest Theme “May the Forest Be With You Always”. Poster Contest items will be dropped off to Third Grade Teachers at the end of February 2024, pick up of finished posters will be the first week of April 2024, judging within a week, and awards presented at Ecology Day during lunch.

Mr. Buck Carpenter made a motion that upon adjournment of today’s Regular Session Meeting, the Board will call a Special Session Meeting upon having a Quorum. Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. seconded the motion – motion carried.

Mr. John Henry Phillips, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Buck Carpenter - motion carried. Mr. Billy Brown, Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. There will be a special session meeting today, February 21, 2024, following this regular scheduled meeting. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held at the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District Conference Room on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Any changes to this meeting time/location will be posted prior to the revised time/location at the Madison SWCD website: [www.madisonflswcd.com](http://www.madisonflswcd.com)

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
BUCK M. CARPENTER  
Secretary/ Treasurer