



Broward Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2024

6:00 PM

Conference Room at State Farmer's Market, 1255 West Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, FL 33069

1. Call to Order

Supervisors Jessie Bastos, Bonny Hajducko, and Chair Fred Segal are physically present. Absent: Supervisor Noreen Abrams. Also present: Sara Rahmankhah. Meeting called to order by Chair Segal at 6:07 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Motion to approve September 26, 2024 minutes by Supervisor Hajducko, seconded by Supervisor Bastos. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report.

Supervisor Hajducko updated the committee on financials.

4. Old Business

4.1 Town of Davie Gardens Matter Day

Supervisor Bastos provided an update on the event in which Supervisors Bastos and Hajducko represented the BSWCD. It was a successful event in which approximately 150 members of the public engaged with the BSWCD booth. We gave away over 50 edible and pollinator plants, handed out over 100 seed packets assembled by the Western High School Ecology Club, and educated the public on the positive environmental and health impacts of growing food in one's home and community. \$120 in donations was raised at the event and provided to Supervisor Hajducko for deposit.

5. New Business

5.1 2025 Notice of Meetings

Supervisor Bastos broached the topic of meeting dates and times for 2025 and suggested they should be decided at either our November or January meeting to be timely and compliant with performance standards. Discussion ensued, and owing to a changing board the dates may need to be decided in January.

5.2 Volunteer Appointment

Chair Segal introduced Sara Rahmankhah, a Fort Lauderdale resident he met through Kiwanis who is interested in volunteering with the BSWCD. Pursuant to Sara providing additional background information, Supervisor Bastos made a motion to appoint Sara Rahmankhah as BSWCD District Administrator, seconded by Supervisor Hajducko. Motion passed unanimously.



6. Member Comment

Supervisor Bastos presented topics to be included in next month's meeting, specifically:

- Summary of Florida SWCD Performance Reviews
- Strategic Plan- addition of Performance Measures
- 2025 Swearing-In Ceremony & Logistics
- Changing of Officers on Banking Accounts
- 2025 Community Outreach Events & Logistics
- 2025 Meeting Dates

Supervisor Hajducko provided her resume of qualifications for the BSWCD to the committee as a follow up to our September meeting discussion.

Supervisor Bastos thanked the board for great collaboration and teamwork over nearly two years of working together on the BSWCD from January 2023 to the present, and summarized both her and the district's accomplishments during that time, including:

- Leading the district migration process to a new website platform and updating the website with prior boards' meeting agendas and minutes
- Completing a state-wide special district audit while also adapting to new Supervisor candidacy minimum qualification standards
- Drafting a mission statement and 5-Year Strategic Plan, both adopted by the BSWCD in 2024
- Participating in numerous community outreach events throughout 2023 and 2024 totaling over 110 volunteer hours in order to educate the public on conservation issues including Water Matters Day, the Town of Davie's Orange Blossom Festival, Pompano Beach's Unity in the Community, the Town of Davie's Gardens Matter Day, and Town of Davie Gardening Workshops.
- Increasing Treasury funds by more than 600% YoY
- Issuing resolutions advocating for the preservation of passive use of State Parks and for the implementation of Best Management Practices
- Creating a Resource Guide to facilitate a seamless transition process for new district Supervisors
- Updating BSWCD social media presence with the creation of an Instagram page and posting of relevant and engaging content to all BSWCD social media sites

Supervisor Bastos is the only current supervisor running in the November 2024 election and expressed concerns regarding new supervisors joining the committee who are highly vocal in projecting partisan agendas, including Robert Sutton who upon introducing himself to the committee during our July 25th BSWCD meeting expressed unsubstantiated concerns with the amount of "migrant" cocaine and drugs polluting our South Florida drinking water. Supervisor Bastos underscored that this is a non-partisan committee, and while prior Supervisors have held varying political ideologies personally, those viewpoints have never interfered with a working and respectful collaboration which she hopes will continue with the board in 2025.

District Administrator Rahmankhah thanked the district for welcoming her to the board and expressed enthusiasm for contributing to upcoming BSWCD initiatives.

7. Public Comment- none.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:32pm by Chair Segal, seconded by Supervisor Hajducko. Motion passes unanimously.