

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District
Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors
June 20, 2024 @ 3:00 pm
Location: HSWCD Office/4503 Coronet Rd/Plant City/FL/33566

Supervisors and staff in attendance: Ryan Gill (Chair, Seat 2); Robert “Myke” Morris (Treasurer, Seat 4); Mark Proctor (Seat 5); Dr. Joe Walsh (HSWCD Executive Director); Kathy Eckdahl (HSWCD Staff); Adam Young (Vice Chair, Seat 3); Michael Wells, CPA; Tom Gonzalez (Special Counsel to HSWCD Board) via MS Teams. Supervisor McCullough was absent.

Items 1-3

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions: Chair Gill called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.; led the Pledge of Allegiance; welcomed attendees and asked for introductions.

Public in attendance: Betty Jo Tompkins (public)

Item 3, Minutes of meeting May 23, 2024 were reviewed. Supervisor Proctor moved to accept the minutes as presented. Supervisor Morris seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4, Non-Agenda Item, outstanding checks against the Hills 100 account: Treasurer Morris raised the issue of outstanding checks written from the Hillsborough 100 account for Poster Contest winners at the beginning of FY2024, but which were for prizes from FY2023. Michael Wells had previously identified a liability to the account’s good standing with regard to outstanding checks stretching back to fiscal years previous to FY2023. Kathy Eckdahl reported that FY 2023 contest winners and group representatives, for which we had email addresses, were notified about the outstanding checks for FY2023.

Item 5, Audit FY2023, Draft Audit and Annual Financial Report: Treasurer Morris initiated this agenda item by thanking Michael Wells and his firm for all their hard work on the FY2023 audit. The Board then discussed some fundamental issues with boilerplate language that had carried over from previous years’ reports, as follows: 1) For Page 11 the Board recommended clarification on the level of support received from NRCS for that fiscal year. It was agreed that the District had realized no operational benefit from NRCS for that time frame. 2) Under Budgets and Budgetary Accounting on page 12, ED Walsh presented his findings from discussions with both County Clerk’s Office and with County Management and Budget, to the effect that for an unknown number of years, the Board has not been submitting any financial statements or budget for its external revenue sources to Hillsborough County or to the Clerk’s Office. Further, the Board of Supervisors realizes 100% of its administrative support, including for all of its outreach activities, from the Hillsborough County Commission. Under this section, changes were recommended to the effect that the Hillsborough BOCC maintains approval control of the Board’s budget, and since it already must report the entirety of its financial position to the State Auditor General, the Board of Supervisors has not and will not make a separate report to the County Clerk’s Office. 3) The section discussing the cost-share pass-through dollars awarded to individual producers by FDACS is to be relabeled as “Conservation Program/Activities”. CPA Wells will revise the audit per the Board’s direction and convey to ED Walsh. Otherwise, it was determined that the FY2023 Audit and Financial Report has no material errors. Treasurer Morris moved to accept and file the FY2023 Audit and Financial Report with the recommended editorial changes; Supervisor Young seconded, and the Motion

carried 4-0.

Item 6, Recap of the advertised Board meeting scheduled for June 11th: The Board was unable to achieve a quorum and so the meeting was adjourned. Supervisors' Morris and Proctor then hosted an informal question and answer session with Michael Wells of Hamilton and Associates; representatives of partner agencies and members of the public present were invited to stay and participate in the Q and A session. Supervisor Morris clarified that although stakeholders interested in the Audit participated, no recommendations or decisions were made during the informal meeting. Prior to closing the meeting, Supervisors Morris and Proctor strongly encouraged the Executive Director to arrange for future Board meetings to be held in the air conditioned spaces of the facility from hereon.

Item 8: Public Records Request regarding the November 3, 2023, candidate interview: ED Walsh reported that a public records request was made about the Nov 3, 2023 gathering of the board, for which no minutes have been published. It was pointed out by the Special Counsel and the Board members present that the November 3rd meeting was convened for the sole purpose of conducting a postponed candidate interview for the position of Executive Director. Since no discussions, recommendations or decisions were made during that event, Special Counsel had previously advised the Board that no meeting minutes were required. However, in the interest of transparency, the Board agreed with Special Counsel Gonzalez that all minutes referencing that meeting date needed to be amended to clarify its purpose and that a short meeting minutes document for that meeting be produced for approval by the Board at its next scheduled meeting.

Item 7, Payment for Audit FY2023: Treasurer Morris moved to pay Hamilton and Associates' \$4,900 invoice for their services for the Audit FY2023 and Financial Summary. Supervisor Proctor seconded and the Motion carried 4-0.

Item 8, Selection Committee for procurement of FY2024 Audit: ED Walsh recommended an Ad Hoc selection committee to select a CPA firm for FY2024 Audit and Financial Summary.

Item 9: Next Board Meeting: Aug 8, 2024 @ 3 pm
Location: HSWCD Office 4503 Coronet Rd, Plant City, FL.

Item 10: Adjournment: Chair Gill adjourned the meeting 3:50 pm.