

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

Supervisors in Attendance

Mark Proctor, Chair
Ryan Gill– Vice Chair
Chris McCullough – Supervisor
Myke Morris- Treasurer
Adam Young - Supervisor

Others in Attendance

Betty Jo Tompkins - HSWCD Executive Director
Linda Chion - HSWCD/PT Computer graphics
Kathy Eckdahl – HSWCD Adm Asst III to Director
Melissa Jackson - HSWCD/PT Community Outreach
Charlene Meeks - Executive Director AFCD
Leslie Diaz-Alvarez - NRCS District Conservationist
Walter Albarran - NRCS Asst State Conservationist
Juan Hernandez - NRCS State Conservationist
MarDee Buchman-
Aide to Congressman Vern Buchanan CD 16
Ken Griner – SWFWMD (zoom)
Thomas Stevens – SWFWMD (zoom)
Kaylee Pate - AFCD Outreach Coordinator (zoom)
Chaz LaRiche - SWFWMD (zoom)

Call to Order

PROCTOR, chair, called meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

MINUTES

MORRIS moved for approval of January 18, 2023 board meeting minutes. McCullough seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MORRIS, treasurer, reviewed the financials.

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|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| ● General bank account | \$2,539.59 | Balance as of January 31, 2023 |
| ● Hillsborough 100 account | \$10,395.98 | Balance as of January 31, 2023 |
| ● Mini-Farms account | \$30,161.87 | Balance as of January 31, 2023 |
| ● Environthon | \$385.66 | Balance as of January 31, 2023 |

McCullough moved to accept and file for audit the financial report for January 31, 2023. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS

FDACS REPORT

WARREN – not in attendance. No report.

NRCS REPORT

DIAZ-ALVAREZ – reported 44 applications for FY 2023 have been received for EQUIP Classic and 34 applications have been received for Emergency EQUIP. ALBARRAN reported the payment range for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). HERNANDEZ reported that the CSP is available to eligible producers based on adopting new conservation activities and the application deadline is end of February. ALBARRAN reported that workshops about NRCS with the help of HSWCD will be scheduled in the near future. NRCS office in Plant City is in the process of hiring a new Agricultural Engineer.

McCULLOUGH requested a review of the description of the new technical position proposed last meeting. Quarter 1, 2024 is the goal to have this position ready to go. HERNANDEZ requested the contact person for this ongoing issue be Hillary Barnhart at NRCS in HERNANDEZ's office.

HERNANDEZ clarified that a farm must be registered through FSA in order to get funds from NRCS.

SWFWMD

STEVENS and LaRICHE - nothing to report at this time.

GRINER - reported on a presentation about silica (frost freeze protection) to be used on citrus and other fruits (blueberries) with success. Potential of saving $\frac{1}{3}$ of water used in frost/freeze/heat stress protection. Presentation to be shared with NRCS and HSWCD. Encouraged participation in mini-farms and farms programs.

AGRIBUSINESS REPORT

BOLLIN - not in attendance. No report.

REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS

GILL - reported he received an email from FDACS about HSWCD Cost Share being out of compliance with contracts and invoices that potentially can incur penalties. PROCTOR reported he received information about this issue right before the meeting began. TOMPKINS reported she had not received any information about this issue except the email from GILL. She clarified that these items are on today's agenda. MORRIS moved to request FDACS freeze the penalties as of today in order for the board to meet about these documents received within 10 days. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed.

GILL moved to hold a special board meeting on March 3, 2023 at 10 am at FSGA to further discuss FDACS documents. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed. GILL moved to discuss AFCD audits on March 3, 2023. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed.

BUSINESS & DIRECTORS REPORT

Update on State Legislation SB 1078: TOMPKINS continues to work with Hillsborough Legislative Delegation members to address unequal geographic districts. Danny Alvarez, member of the FL House of Representatives, has been asked to sponsor a Local Bill to address this deficiency.

Update on Legislation that addresses hostile countries purchasing agricultural land and land near military bases in Florida: HSWCD is following this legislation and this will be reviewed at Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol on March 8, 2023.

February 1, 2023 Legislative Delegation meeting at USF was attended by PROCTOR, MORRIS, and TOMPKINS.

Regular Board meeting on March 22, 2023 to be rescheduled. MORRIS moved to change the date and time of the regular board meeting to March 29, 2023 at 3 pm at FSGA. YOUNG seconded. Motion passed, with PROCTOR providing comments.

4-H U-pick at Fancy Farms on February 18, 2023 raised \$21,000 for the 4-H program..

Tabloid for 2023 is being planned. Sponsors, advertisers, and articles for the Tabloid are being recruited.

Update on Mini Grants: received applications from 4-H, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other youth groups. 10 grants may be awarded.

Review of upcoming programs, projects and activities with HSWCD participating reported by TOMPKINS.

- March 2-12, 2023 FL Strawberry Festival HSWCD to exhibit
- March 6, 2023 Farm Credit Breakfast and Grand Parade Luncheon
- March 8, 2023 Farm Bureau Day at the Capital - Tallahassee, FL
- March 22-23, 2023 Fly-In at the Capitol - Washington, D.C.
- March 25-26, 2023 Greenfest
- April 12, 2023 Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Luncheon @ The Regent
- April 16, 2023 Hillsborough 100 Tabloid
- April 18-21, 2023 Spring AgVenture HSWCD to present
- May 4, 2023 EPC Clean Air Fair

MORRIS moved to have a planning retreat for the long range plan to include review of activities/events/programs/fairs that HSWCD is involved in during the year date TBD. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

GILL moved to have a roundtable to address the Farm Bill with local farmers before NACD Fly-In at the Capitol, date TBD. MORRIS seconded. Motion passed.

Update on NACD National Meeting February 12-15, 2023: Attended by Proctor and Tompkins. Tompkins presented on "Successfully Funding Districts Through Government, Grants, Events, and Activities". Largest breakout session with over 100 participants. Very positive response from Tompkins presentation.

Update on AFCD Annual Meeting Feb 6-8, 2023: Attended by Proctor, GILL, Morris, Tompkins.

Update on FL State Fair Feb 9-20, 2023: HSWCD staff presented at Fair. Served samples at Fresh from FL Breakfast, participated in Governors Luncheon, Ag Hall of Fame Dinner and Champions of Champions Banquet.

Update Scholarship program: applications are open for the Michael Hepburn and Roy Gene Davis scholarships.

Update on joint grant from USDA with HSWCD partnering with City of Tampa, and Coalition of Community Gardens. Final paperwork to be signed soon.

Update on office relocation: move to new office space to be completed by the end of February. Refrigerator and freezer from the old office was donated to Miracles Children's Home.

Budget request for 2023 - 2024 is being worked on.

Supervisors' laptops from the county have been requested.

See Agenda for full listing of programs, projects and activities.

MEETING ADJOURNED

DINNER SERVED