

HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors District Regular Meeting

Wednesday October 13, 2021

5:00 PM

Supervisors in attendance:

Andrew Brooks – Vice Chair
Sonja Brookins – Treasurer
Mark Proctor - Supervisor

Others in attendance

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD, Executive Director
Simon Bolin, Agribusiness Development
Leslie Diaz- Alvarez, NRCS District Conservationist
Linda Chion, HSWCD, Computer Graphics Designer
Stephanie Collins HSWCD – Community Outreach

INTRODUCE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Andrew Brooks Vice Chair led the meeting as Chair Kathy Eckdahl was unable to attend. Supervisor Karen Jaroch was out of town.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Minutes reviewed. Supervisor Brookins made motion to approve. Supervisor Proctor 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Brookins reviewed report with the Board.

Executive Director Betty Jo Tompkins stated that the County budget had arrived, and copies were in their books. Salaries are paid thru Hillsborough County and the department saves funds by having no rental expense for either the Plant City or Brandon offices. Tompkins suggested Supervisors review the new budget and questions may be reviewed at the next meeting. Supervisor Brooks made motion to approve treasurer’s report. Supervisor Proctor 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

AGRI-BUSINESS REPORT

Simon Bolin gave report. Friday, October 15, 2021 a craft beer documentary will be shown at the Tampa Theatre titled *Crafting the Bay*. Tickets are free.

Tuesday Oct 19,2021 is a hops field day at the research station for brewers and potential growers with two acres devoted to research. Currently there are 368 breweries in Florida.

Plants stay in the ground 10-15 years, but do not reach full yield capabilities until about three years of age. Cascade is the most widely used variety.

A major issue for Florida growers is production costs vs. price received for the pellets.

October 20, 2021 BOCC has requested fertilizer ordinance go for a reading. Ordinance would ban application of fertilizer on residential lawns during certain months. Agriculture, sport turf and golf courses are exempt. Proposed dates of ban would be June 1st thru Oct 30th. Bolin noted some studies indicate bans increase red tide. People tend to fertilize heavy in April and May before the ban occurs, even though it might not be the right time to fertilize.

HSWCD GREAT PLANT AUCTION

Roy Davis Committee Chair gave his report. This is the 5th year for this event with 2020 being the exception as Fair events were closed due to COVID shutdowns. This was the most successful year to date with over 40 area nurserymen donating plants and plant nutrition products. High quality plants resulted in the auction yielding an estimated \$7,500.

Davis emphasized the need for more volunteers and suggested consideration be given to providing a stipend for nurseries to pick up the plants for HSWCD. Davis served as auctioneer and picked up plants, while Collins did the majority of unloading. Discussion was also held regarding expansion of youth plant show.

Executive Director Tompkins reviewed the Preliminary Reconciliation document in the Supervisor books that she and Roy developed. The document broke down and allocated into different categories how funds raised would be distributed. Categories included Mike Hepburn and Roy Davis Scholarships, mini grants for youth, sponsorship for variety of contests, educational supplies etc. Request was made by Roy for the 2021 Great Plant Auction Preliminary Reconciliation budget be approved. Supervisor Proctor made motion and Brookins 2nd. Motion passed.

Roy thanked the Board and indicated that a copy of the planned distribution would be delivered to the nurserymen to illustrate how their donations are being utilized. Tompkins stated that a special framed certificate would be made for all donors with a thank you letter, photos and talking points as to how the money is being used.

Discussion held regarding how final decision will be made as to scholarship recipients. Supervisors stated the awarding of scholarships should be a Board decision. All in agreement. Further discussion made as to improvements for 2022 Great Plant Auction Executive Director Tompkins recommended a workshop be developed to discuss further. All agreed. Supervisor Brooks volunteered to help with the 2022 event. Supervisor Brookins asked how youth would know about the scholarship opportunities. Tompkins said an email would be sent out to FFA, 4-H and Homeschoolers. Supervisor Proctor made motion for workshop to be held to discuss further. Brookins seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS REPORT

Leslie Diaz-Alvarez gave the report. So far, she has 54 applications for year 2022. Lots of signups with Equip program. There is a new program Conservation Stewardship. It is a 5-year program well-funded on the Federal level.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Brooks noted resignation letter in the books submitted by Stephanie Collins – Community Outreach Tech. Collins is resigning to devote all her energies to her business that has recovered since the COVID shutdowns. Last day to be November 20th to give Department extra time to find replacement and help work pre-planned events such as Ag Venture etc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Betty Jo Tompkins gave her report. She reported on a variety of business and education programs. Over 500 posters displayed at the HSWCD booth during the Hillsborough County Fair. One Hillsborough County poster entry won 2nd in State. Tompkins provided a listing of upcoming events ranging from Ag Venture, Hillsborough County Fall Festival exhibit, Florida Ag Expo exhibit, Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Day and Taste of Florida exhibit, Kickoff Luncheon, booth at State Fair, speech contests, Envirothon, Land Judging Contest and more.

AFCD meeting was from Sept 8 – 10th in Daytona. Supervisors Brookins, Jaroch, Brooks as well as Collins and Tompkins were in attendance. Tompkins finished her 2nd term as Chair for FCDEA and hosted the FCDEA State Meeting with a variety of speakers. Attendees received gift bags at the event. State Legislator Daisy Morales was one of the guest speakers at the AFCD meeting.

Girl Scouts Fest 500 bracelets given out. Outreach made of upcoming events.

Hillsborough County Fair HSWCD had a booth, youth plant show and auction. Rain barrel contest very popular with 12 groups competing.

Tompkins passed out a list to Supervisors of upcoming events for them to circle which they planned to participate in.

Working Group was discussed. Event Nov 23rd at FSGA. Tompkins requested NRCS assist in getting the word out. Leslie agreed.

Farm Bureau Legislative Day will be November 30, 2021 in Tallahassee. Tompkins encouraged Supervisors to attend and reported that HSWCD will have a booth in the Taste of Florida event there.

State Fair Booth update –Tompkins stated NRCS reported they would donate \$3,000 for the booth. Booth will be in the Ag Hall of Fame Building and feature the theme “Conservation is everybody’s Business”.

Tompkins discussed that she continues to write articles for *In the Field* about HSWCD activities. Copies are included in Supervisors books. Many other events discussed on flyer located in the books. For further information, review list included in Agenda.

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OTHER BUSINESS

New logo presented by Tompkins. Supervisor Brooks made motion to approve. Proctor seconded. Motion passed.

Next Board meeting December 8, 2021

Supervisor Brookins made motion to adjourn. Proctor 2ND the motion. Meeting adjourned.