

# Hillsborough Soil & Water

## Conservation District

Board of Supervisors \* District Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 4, 2021 @ 4:30 pm  
Florida Strawberry Growers Association  
13138 Lewis Gallagher Road  
Dover, Florida 33527



## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

- Introduce Board Members and the Public – *Public Comment*
- Minutes of June 2, 2021 – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
- Financial Report - *Treasurer Sonja Brookins*
- NRCS District/Area Report – *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, District Conservationist*
  - 1) *Civil Rights Partners Review*    2) *District Update*
- FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
- SWFWMD Farms Program – *Ken Griner, Project Engineer*
- Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
- Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*

### BUSINESS

- Education Programs
  - Update on Poster Contests – 1) 2021 NACD Poster Contest – “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” Approximately 300 posters were received covering grades K – 12. First Place Poster Grades 10 – 12 by Giulia Jones selected as Area Winner and will compete in state contest. All posters being held to exhibit at Hillsborough County Fair and all entrants will receive a free Fair ticket. 2) 2021 Summer Poster Contest – Theme: “Why Conservation Matters” – Contest runs through August 20, 2021, with awards same as Healthy Forests contest. All Summer poster contestants will also have their posters displayed at the Hillsborough County Fair Fall Festival October 29 – 31, 2021 and receive certificates. 3) 2022 NACD Poster Contest – “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” – Contest will commence with the 2021 – 2022 school year. Contest flyer, rules and applications ready for distribution to public, private, parochial, charter, home and virtual school students. Contest deadline: March 25, 2022.
  - Speech Contest - 2022 HSWCD Speech Contest – “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” – Timetable to coincide with Poster Contest and printed materials prepared for distribution.
  - Envirothon – Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon will be returning in 2022 with a live competition.
  - Ag Venture – Live events at Florida State Fairgrounds pending for fall 2021 and spring 2022.
  - Land Judging – Competition will resume as a live event for 2021 – 2022.
- Director’s Report, review of Overall Programs- *Betty Jo Tompkins*
  - AFCD – Area 4 meeting held in Tavares June 18, 2021 with Supervisors Eckdahl, Brooks and Brookins in attendance with Director Tompkins. Congratulations to Supervisor Brookins for her election as Area 4 Vice-President. HSWCD Resolution approved and will be presented at Annual Meeting. Continued planning for AFCD and FCDEA Annual meetings September 9 and 10 at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach Note: new COVID guidelines restrict all travel for NRCS. AFCD is currently considering changing event format to a virtual or hybrid one. Decision will be announced shortly

- Participate in FCD quarterly June 4, 2022 in Daytona for planning and secured Annual Meeting speakers.
- NACD Summer Meeting and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Chicago, Illinois – July 24 – 27, 2021 – Distributed Hillsborough 100 tabloids and presented information on HSWCD programs, projects and activities to members of the Communications Committee, Education and Stewardship Committee, Southeastern Regional Committee and NACD Foundation Trustees. Reviewed NACD Executive Summary of America’s Conservation Delivery System, “Locally Led, State Centered and Nationally Consistent”. Also discussed federal issues regarding definition of Conservation, etc. Visited Elkhart County 4-H Fair to review their Conservation District activities at the Fair.
- NACD SE Regional Meeting – Gulf Shores, Alabama– August 8 -10, 2021 – Participating with HSWCD materials,
- GS Fest – September 18, 2021 at Florida State Fairgrounds. HSWCD will have exhibit and youth activities at the event.
- Hillsborough County Fair – September 23 – 26 and September 30 – October 3, 2021. HSWCD will participate in the following programs at the Fair: 1) Educational Conservation exhibit and display of 500 + posters; 2) Sponsorship and presentation of Youth Plant Show; 3) Sponsorship of Youth Rain Barrel Decorating Contest; 4) Presentation of 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plant Auction, 5) Participation in Harvest Awards Luncheon- Supervisors invited to attend and will receive 2 tickets each.
- Hillsborough County Fair Fall Festival – October 29 – 31, 2021. HSWCD will participate in this new Fall event with exhibit and youth activities.
- Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Dinner & Annual Meeting – October 7, 2021 – HSWCD will participate with an exhibit. Supervisors invited to attend and will receive 2 tickets each.
- NACD – 2022 NACD Annual Meeting scheduled for February 12- 16 as a live event at Hilton Orlando Disney Springs. Tompkins serving on the Host Committee. Events will include a “Fresh From Florida” commodity dinner sponsored by AFCD at the hotel on Saturday, February 12, 2022. In addition, two tours are planned by AFCD/FCDEA to feature Hillsborough County. Tour 1) will be a Florida State Fair tour scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2022, with tour 2) being strawberry operations, slated for Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Participated in Urban Ag zoom meetings.
- AFCD – Continue work with AFCD to coordinate tours/other activities related to 2022 NACD meeting.
- FCDEA – Chaired monthly FCDEA teleconference. Continued planning for upcoming events (if held).
- Florida State Fair – February 10 – 22, 2022 – HSWCD has been given 30’ x 60’ complimentary exhibit space in the center of the Ag Hall of Fame for duration of the Fair. Exhibit theme will be: “Conservation is Everybody’s Business” and the exhibit will include painted characters of bees, bats, birds and butterflies (all pollinators), along with costumed live characters, exhibit pods on soils, water, air, forestry, recycling, conservation issues, etc. NRCS has agreed to provide \$3,000. in financial support for the exhibit and the Tampa Bay Beekeepers have agreed to purchase and wear a bee costume, as well as beekeeper outfit, for the exhibit. Exhibit will also include display of decorated rain barrels (from HSWCD contest at the County Fair), as well as blankets made of recycled clothing. Youth will also be giving demonstrations during certain days at the Fair. Supervisors, staff and volunteers will be asked to volunteer at the exhibit during Fair. HSWCD will also participate in “Fresh From Florida” Breakfast, Governor’s Lunch, Woman of the Year in Agriculture Luncheon and Ag Hall of Fame Dinner.
- Lipman Garden Challenge –Planning for upcoming Challenge underway. This year’s participating groups, which will be the largest to date, will include school ag programs, science clubs, ESE classes, 4-H Clubs, Scouts and others.

- “Let’s Plant Some Trees” event held on June 12, 2021, Tree planting (approx. 20,000 long leaf pine trees) were planted at the Lower Green Swamp Preserve, 3540 East Knights Griffin Road, Plant City 33565 by youth and adult volunteers, Sponsors for this HSWCD event included Sustany Foundation, TREE, Inc., Rotary, Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management and Hillsborough Sustainability. Supporters include Florida Strawberry Growers, Odiorne Insurance, Mosaic, Hillsborough Democratic Environmental Caucus. Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee and others. Participants received colorfully printed t-shirts featuring the NACD logo theme “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” on the front with sponsors on the back. Everyone also received a gift bag with all types of conservation items, as well as refreshments throughout the day.
- Local Working Group –Another Local Working Group meeting will be held in November to review NRCS plans and set priorities for 2023. Details to follow.
- NRCS State Technical Committee – 6/22/2021
- Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – April 17, - May 8, 2022 – Plans are underway for the 2022 Challenge, with multiple events covering road and river cleanups, recycling of paper, plastic and electronics, pollinator gardens, tree plantings, other events and contests. Official kickoff luncheon will be in November, with details to follow
- FDACS – Extended 2020 – 2021 Cost Share Contract until September 30, 2021, with 2022 contract already signed for \$150,000.
- Florida Ag Expo – November 17, 2021 – HSWCD to participate with complimentary exhibit space.
- Farm Bureau Legislative Day – January 12, 2022 – Supervisors encouraged to attend day long legislative event at beginning of 2022 session. Details to follow.
- Wrote articles for In The Field magazine and other publications.
- Continue visits to area agricultural operators to determine possible programs (HSWCD cost share or NRCS) they may be eligible to participate in.
- Review checklist of participation in upcoming activities and events.
- Logo and printed materials.
- Assisted with grant proposals
- Other Activities: Chamber events with Greater Plant City Chamber - Annual non-profit luncheon (with display – 6/10/2021) and Plant City non-profit Roundtable (6/22/2021) \* Speaker for Brandon Kiwanis (6/3/2021) \* Community Roundtable Board (Trustee – 7/14/2021) \* Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation Board/Committees – 6/8/2021,7/12/2021,7/13/20217/22/2021) \* Hillsborough County Fair Board (6/24/2021) \* Ag Tool Kit Webinar (6/22/2021) \* Tampa Bay Beekeepers (Presentation 7/8/2021) \* Rotary Club of Brandon Eco Global (6/14/2021, 7/12/2021) \* Rotary District College of Governors (6/9/2021) DG’s event (7/7/2021) \* T.R.E.E. Inc. Quarterly (7/10/2021 \* Center Place Executive Board and Board (6/15/2021, 7/20/2021) \* Tampa Tiger Bay (7/16/2021) \* ESRAG (6/23/2021)
- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements, and Adjournment
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – October 6, 2021
- Adjournment
- Dinner
- Upcoming Events and Activities – See Next Page

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- **August 4, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting**
- **August 8 – 10, 2021 – NACD Southeast Meeting – The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama**
- **August 9, 2021 – Southeast Region Hall of Fame Luncheon**
- **September 3, 2021 – University of Florida Dinner of Distinction**
- **September 9 – 10, 2021 – AFCD State Meeting – Plaza Resort & Spa, 600 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida 32118**
- **September 12, 2021 – Hillsborough County Fair Workday**
- **September 14, 2021 – Hillsborough County Fair Salute to Earl Lennard**
- **September 18, 2021 – GS Fest – Florida State Fairgrounds – HSWCD Exhibit**
- **September 18 – 22, 2021 – Set up for HSWCD activities at Hillsborough County Fair**
- **September 23 – 26 and September 30 – October 3, 2021 – Hillsborough County Fair, State Road 60 – September 23 – Harvest Awards; Duration of the Fair: HSWCD booth; Posters on display from HSWCD poster contests (500+); Sponsor of Youth Plant Show; Sponsor of youth Rain Barrel Decorating Contest.**
- **October 3, 2021 – 2:00PM – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual HSWCD Great Plant Auction – Hillsborough County Fair**
- **October 6, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting**
- **October 7, 2021 – Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Dinner**
- **October 27 – 29, 2021 – Florida Farm Bureau Convention – Orlando**
- **October 29 – 31, 2021 – Hillsborough County Fair Fall Festival – HSWCD booth, display of summer poster contest entrants, special events**
- **November 2021 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon**
- **November 2021 – Local Working Group Meeting**
- **November 17, 2021 – Florida Ag Expo at UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Station, Balm**
- **December 1, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting**
- **December 3, 2021 – AFCD Quarterly Meeting**
- **January 12, 2022 – Farm Bureau Legislative Day - Tallahassee**
- **February 12 – 16, 2022 – NACD Annual Meeting – Hilton Orlando Disney Springs, Orlando, Florida – Saturday, February 12, 2022 – Florida Dinner at NACD Annual Meeting; Sunday, February 13, 2022 – NACD Tour to the Florida State Fair, Tampa; Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – NACD Tour to Hillsborough County Strawberry operations. Other NACD activities and events TBA.**
- **February 10 – 21, 2022 – Florida State Fair – HSWCD to have featured center space in the Ag Hall of Fame Building. Promoting “Conservation is Everybody’s Business”. Events: February 10, 2022 – Fresh From Florida Breakfast; February 10, 2022 – Governor’s Lunch; February 14, 2022 – Ag Woman of the Year Luncheon; February 15, 2022 – AG Hall of Fame Dinner; February 20, 2022 – Champion of Champions Awards Program**
- **March 3 – 13, 2022 – Florida Strawberry Festival – Exhibit in Grimes Building. Events: March 7, 2022 – Farm Credit Breakfast; March 7, 2022 – Grand Parade Luncheon. Other Events TBA.**
- **March 26 – 27, 2022 – Tampa Green Fest – Tampa Garden Club**
- **April 17 – May 8, 2022 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge**
- **May 5, 2022 – EPC Clean Air Fair – Downtown Tampa**



***Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District . . . . Leading for Tomorrow.*** Betty Jo Tompkins