

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Friday, December 17, 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 October 13, 2021 – *Chair – Kathy Eckdahl*
- Financial Report - *Treasurer Sonja Brookins*
- NRCS District/Area Report – Printed report included in Board packet - *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez*,
District Conservationist unable to attend.
MOU between HSWCD and NRCS
- FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
- SWFWMD Farms Program – *Jeff Whealton, SWFWMD Sr. Scientist & Ken Griner, Project Engineer*
- Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bolin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
- Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chair – Kathy Eckdahl*

BUSINESS

- Education Programs
 - Ag Venture – HSWCD participated in the Ag Venture program at the Florida State Fairgrounds October 26 – 29 and November 1- 5, 2021, presenting multiple programs daily for public, private and home school students. A total of 821 students participated in the public/private school days with an additional 263 home school students. Presentations made by staff Tompkins and Collins, with Soil and Water station receiving the highest evaluation score of all stations. The Spring Ag Venture program will be held in April for a one-week period.
 - Fall Festival – Inaugural event held October 29 – 31, 2021 at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, which featured an array of old fashioned ag oriented activities. HSWCD participated with booth and hundreds of students made water cycle bracelets Event was both fun and educational for all involved.
 - Poster Contests – 2022 NACD Poster Contest – “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” – Contest currently underway with participation expected from public, private, parochial, home and virtual 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 being distributed.
 - Envirothon – Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon expected to return in 2022 with a live competition.
 - Land Judging – Competition will resume as a live event for 2021 – 2022.
- Director’s Report, review of Overall Programs- *Betty Jo Tompkins*
 - SECDEA – Tompkins attended Southeast Regional Employees Association meeting in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee (November 7 – 10, 2021) and gave 45 minute presentation on “Funding Streams: Maximizing Your District’s Potential” to entire Conference attendees. Received numerous requests for power point presentation, as well as copies of materials used in HSWCD programs. Tompkins and Chion developed additional materials for post Conference distribution.

- Florida Ag Expo - November 18, 2021 at UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Station in Balm. HSWCD Attendees: Brookins, Tompkins. Collins and Bolesta. –Participated with HSWCD booth featuring agricultural funding opportunities through NRCS and FDACS Cost share programs, as well as other HSWCD programs.
- Local Working Group Meeting – November 23, 2021 – 27 attendees, including Supervisors Brooks, Brookins, Proctor, Jaroch and staff Tompkins, Chion, Collins and Bolesta. Reviewed potential funding opportunities from NRCS for fiscal year 2023., -
- Farm Bureau Legislative Day – November 30, 2021 – Attended by Brookins, Tompkins, Collins. Participated in Legislative Breakfast, Senate floor mock debate (Brookins & Tompkins debated), visited legislative offices, received Farm Bureau updates and participated with HSWCD booth in the “Fresh From Florida” reception, serving appetizers of Hillsborough County foods.
- AFCD – Participated in quarterly AFCD meeting (December 3, 2021) and Legislative Discussion Meeting (December 13, 2021).
- Conservation Legislative Issues – Discussion on Resolution Pertaining to House Bill 783 and SB 1078.
- FCDEA – Participated in FCDEA Board Planning Meeting (October 14, 2021) and Meetings October 19, 2021 and November 16, 2021).
- NACD - Annual Meeting – February 12 - 16, 2022 -1) Supervisor Registration; 2) Tours to Florida State Fair – February 13, 2022 and Strawberry Production – February 15, 2022.
- NACD 2022 Urban and Community Grants – Grant Webinar – December 14, 2021 – Tompkins presented Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge program to national webinar.
- Resolution for HSWCD Participation in 2022 Urban and Community Grant Program.
- Hillsborough 100 Conservation Kickoff Luncheon – January 18, 2022 at The Regent. All aspects of event are currently underway, as well as planning for 2022 Challenge – April 17 – May 8, 2022.
- Florida State Fair – February 10 – 21, 2022 – Continued planning for HSWCD 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 material. Supervisors, staff and volunteers will be asked to volunteer at the exhibit during Fair. HSWCD will also participate in “Fresh From Florida” Breakfast (February 10, 2022), Governor’s Lunch February 10, 2022), Woman of the Year in Agriculture Luncheon (February 14, 2022) and Ag Hall of Fame Dinner (February 15, 2022).
- Florida Strawberry Festival – March 3 – 13, 2022 – HSWCD will participate with booth in Grimes Building, as well as Farm Credit Breakfast (March 7, 2022 and Grand Parade Luncheon (March 7, 2022).
- 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.
- FDACS – Continuing work related to 2022 cost share contract (\$150,000).
- Continued writing articles for In The Field magazine and other publications.
- Visits to area agricultural operators to determine possible programs (HSWCD cost share or NRCS) they may be eligible to participate in.

- Other Activities: Tampa Bay Beekeepers (October 14 and December 6, 2021); Tiger Bay Club – Speaker Ag Com. Nikki Fried (October 15, 2021); Fresh From Florida Webinar (October 18, 2021); Center Place Executive Committee & Board (October 19, 2021, November 16, 2021, Christmas Tree Lighting December 8, 2021); NRCS Urban Ag Subcommittee (October 20, 2021); Community Roundtable (October 20, 2021); Republican Executive Committee (November 11, 2021); ESRAG (November 15, 2021, December 7, 2021); 4-H Foundation (November 17, 2021, December 7, 2021, December 14, 2021); NRCS CSP Workshop (November 18, 2021); Rotary ECO – November 22, 2021, December 13, 2021); Plant City Chamber –Speaker Bob Enriquez, Property Appraiser (December 9, 2021); Tiger Bay – Speakers Constitutional Officers (December 10, 2021); Strawberry Jam (December 11, 2021); Ag Venture Luncheon (December 16, 2021).
- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements, and Adjournment
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – February 23, 2022
- Review Schedule for 2022
- Adjournment
- Dinner
- Upcoming Events and Activities – See Next Page

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



- December 17, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting - Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road, Dover
- January 18, 2022 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon, The Regent, 6437 Watson Road, Riverview
- February 10 -21, 2022 – Florida State Fair – HSWCD featured booth in the Ag Hall of Fame Building with theme “Conservation is Everybody’s Business”. Events:
 - February 10, 2022 – 7:30 am – Fresh From Florida Breakfast in Ag Hall of Fame Building. HSWCD to serve food.
 - February 10, 2022 – 11:45 am – Florida State Fair Governor’s Luncheon
 - February 12 – 16, 2022 – NACD Annual Meeting –Hilton Orlando Disney Springs, Orlando, Florida
 - February 12, 2022 – Florida Dinner at NACD Annual Meeting;
 - February 13, 2022 – NACD Tour to the Florida State Fair, Tampa;
 - February 14, 2022 – 11:45 am – Woman of the Year in Agriculture Luncheon at Florida State Fair
 - February 15, 2022 – NACD Tour to Hillsborough County Strawberry operations. Other NACD events TBA.
 - February 15, 2022 – 5:00 pm – Florida Ag Hall of Fame Reception - 6:00 pm – Florida Ag Hall of Fame Dinner -
 - February 20, 2022 – Champion of Champions Awards Program
 - February 23, 2022 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting – Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- 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 13, 2022 – 4:30 pm - HSWCD Board Meeting – Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- April 17 – May 8, 2022 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- May 5, 2022 – EPC Clean Air Fair – Downtown Tampa
- June 8, 2022 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting - Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- August 10, 2022 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting – Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- September 7 – 9. 2022 – AFCD 2022 Annual Meeting – The Plaza, Daytona Beach
- October 12, 2022 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting – Florida Strawberry Growers Association
- December 14, 2022 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting – Florida Strawberry Growers Association

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