

HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Mark Proctor.

Supervisors in attendance:

Mark Proctor, Chair
Michael Hepburn, Vice Chair
Susan Dumke, Treasurer
Kathy Eckdahl
Andrew Brooks

Others in Attendance:

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD, Executive Director
Jennifer Gray, HSWCD, Administrative Services Coordinator
Erik Moretuzzo, FDACS/HSWCD, Ag Conservation Technician
Simon Bollin, Economic Development, Agribusiness Development Manager
Lisa Strange, FDACS
Walter Albarran, NRCS, Area Conservationist
Diana Avellanet-Echevarria, NRCS, District Conservationist

INTRODUCE MEMBER(S) OF THE PUBLIC

Chairman requested members and guests introduce themselves and offer public comment.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

One correction: add Simon Bollin to attendance roster in the December 12, 2018 minutes. Sup. Hepburn moved approval of December 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion 2nd by Sup. Dumke. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report presented by Sup. Dumke as follows:

- Regular account beginning balance of \$21,742.85 and ending balance of \$31,011.85
- Mini-Farm account beginning balance of \$20,157.02 and ending balance of \$61,602.95
- Petty Cash account beginning balance of (\$3.42) and ending balance of \$120.50
- Hillsborough 100 account beginning balance of \$1,305.83 and ending balance of \$2,305.83

Motion from Sup. Eckdahl to accept Treasurer's Report to file for audit.

Motion 2nd by Sup. Brooks. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS REPORT

Diana Avellanet-Echevarria reported EQIP has 10 applications in the system: 3 CAPS (2 energy and 1 forest), 3 Historically Underserved (HU), 4 Area Three All (2 cropland and 2 grazing). Awaiting Farm Bill updates for other possible sign ups. One payment for Herbaceous Weed Treatment completed. CSP no applications. Conservation Program contracts one cancellation, five expiring between May and September, and two commencement mods. Two pending Agricultural Ground and Surface Water Management (AGSWM). No pending wetland determinations. Seven Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations pending.

Walter Albarran reported Federal Budget has been passed, the state will receive the numbers soon after which areas will be notified of their budget numbers. NRCS had 4 employees retire recently. Farm Bill passed, no programs added or removed. Program applications are continuing to be processed (ranking and evaluating) and many placed on hold, still awaiting Farm Bill updates.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Simon Bollin reported Military Agriculture Tour (MAT) held 4th annual in January. Preparing a 2nd Veteran Aquaculture Tour (VAT) this year, last one held last summer. Veterans Florida Agriculture Program 2 years old as of January 2019. One intern has already been placed at a research center, a second intern is in process of being placed. US Sugar is interested in helping fund the program. Applied for a USDA grant for the VFA Program. Grants also submitted for the Hops Research Program and a grant partnering with Cornell growing Goldenberry and Ground Cherry in New York (husked tomatillo family) native to Florida. Expanded hop yard will experiment with different trellis heights.

FDACS

Lisa Strange reported cost share money for the year has been allocated. Self-verification surveys sent out to producers.

REQUEST FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

BUSINESS:

- A. Update on BMP Program- Moretuzzo enrolled 2 cow calf operations and 8 VAC, and cost shared 7.5 miles of cross-fence. Worked on implementation verifications, common practices status reports and enrollment efforts in northern counties. Assisted with Alafia BMAP unenrolled parcels.
- B. EAC Report- Local government has voted to abolish Civil Service Board, the issue will be going to legislature soon. It is estimated that Civil Service will be available until around October 1, 2019.
- C. Update on Education Programs- Tompkins gave an update on programs: Land Judging and Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon dates and locations shared. Speech Contest and Poster Contest judging will be at the board meeting on April 17, 2019. Educational Programs flyers distributed.
- D. Directors Report- Director Tompkins provided update on the Florida State Fair and Florida Strawberry Festival. At the Florida State Fair booth and displays were set up in the Ag Hall of Fame for the duration of the fair. Attended Fresh From Florida Breakfast, Governor's Luncheon, Woman of the Year in Agriculture Luncheon, Ag Hall of Fame Dinner and Champion of Champions Youth Awards and Dinner. Two Hillsborough Harvested Days occurred including demonstrations by Eliana Holt, Joseph Vanegas, Supervisor Susan Dumke, Erik Marshall, Dawn Marshall and Director Betty Jo Tompkins. Florida Strawberry Festival booth and displays were set up in the Grimes Building for the duration of the festival. Attended Strawberry Festival Farm Credit Breakfast and Strawberry Festival Grand Parade Luncheon. Attended NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio Texas. Spoke at the NCDEA meeting, Urban and Community RPG and Urban Ag Conservation Meeting. Attended NACD President's Reception, Southeast Regional Meeting, Opening General Session, Leadership Luncheon, Conservation Expo, NACD Auction, NCDEA meeting, Urban Ag, LBJ Ranch Tour, NACD Banquet and Urban Ag Symposium. Tompkins named to National Grants Committee. Received \$1,000 NACD stipend for trip. Held first FCDEA mid-year meeting at the Florida Strawberry Growers Association included presentations by producers, FSGA and grant information. Relayed schedule of upcoming AFCD quarterly and annual meetings. Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid to be released on April 20, 2019. Extension Service is expanding their role in the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge. 2019 Farm Bill funding appears to be greater funding for conservation efforts, agency reviews are underway, handout distributed. Legislative Session to take place in March and April. Events attended Plant City Chamber Agri-Business Council, Wish Farms "Strawberry Challenge", Brandon Chamber Annual Banquet, Plant City Chamber Gala, Riverview Chamber Luncheon, Strawberry Festival Luncheon and Tiger Bay Club Annual Awards. Requested information from Supervisors for their shirts, business cards and website biographies.
- E. Performance Review of Executive Director Betty Jo Tompkins. Chairman Proctor presented the review paperwork to rest of board. Sup. Proctor positive remarks, but Director Tompkins needs to ask for more help. Sup. Hepburn positive remarks, all above and beyond. Sup. Eckdahl positive remarks, great help settling into new Supervisor position. Sup. Dumke positive remarks, considers Director Tompkins a mentor and appreciates time spent with district and coupon savvy. Chairman Proctor moved to increase Director Tompkins salary by 5% motion was 2nd by Sup. Eckdahl, motion passed unanimously.
- F. No Public Correspondence.
- G. No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm. Dinner served.