

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 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*
- Blueberry Flavor Test with *Elliot Norden, Blueberry Breeding Associate, Driscolls*
- Minutes of February 3, 2021 – *Vice-Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
- Financial Report - *Treasurer Andrew Brooks*
- NRCS District Report – *Leslie Diaz Alvarez, District Conservationist (Via Zoom)*
- FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
- SWFWMD Ag Team – *Jeff Whealton, Ag Team Manager (Via Zoom)*
- SWFWMD Farms Program – *Ken Griner, Project Engineer*
- Agribusiness Development Report – *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
- Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Vice-Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
Procedures for filling Board vacancies.

BUSINESS

- Update of FDACS contract and vehicle
- Education Programs
 - Poster Contests – 1) 2021 Poster Contest – “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” Contest open until April 30, 2021. Public, private, parochial, charter and home schools in Hillsborough County contacted regarding participation in poster contest, speech contest, Garden Challenge and Hillsborough 100 projects. Posters will be judged in May, with all participants receiving personalized certificates, one free ticket to the County Fair beginning September 23rd and poster on display at Fair. Winning posters will receive cash awards and advance to the Area competition, June 18th. The summer poster contest will run from June 1 – August 31, 2021. Theme will be: “Why Conservation Matters” and the same awards will be presented. Students from 2020 contests will also receive a ticket to the Fair. Anticipating several hundred entries.
 - Speech Contest – Applications for 2021 HSWCD Speech Contest – “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” are being distributed through schools and youth organizations for contest entry through April 30, 2021. Over 50 speeches have already been received, so competition will take place in rounds. Winning speeches will be presented at Area meeting, June 18th. Cash prizes will be presented at the local level and all entrants will receive a \$10. gift card.
 - 2021 Envirothon – Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon canceled due to COVID restrictions.
 - Ag Venture – Live events will be held at Florida State Fairgrounds in conjunction with the 2021 Fair, April 22 – May 2, 2021.
 - Land Judging - Canceled for 2021. Planning return for 2022.
 - Presentation by Supervisor Brookins and Director Tompkins at HCC CROP – February 6, 2021

➤ Director's Report, review of Overall Programs- *Betty Jo Tompkins*

- NACD – Participated in 2021 NACD Annual Meeting (February 1 – 5 and 8 – 10) via zoom. Presented previously taped 25 minute program on communications, etc. featuring HSWCD and the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge on February 9, 2021. Provided live responses to participants and received feedback from states throughout the country. 2) Board and staff also registered for national meeting. 3) Participated in additional NACD national webinar on Urban and Community Grant Programs regarding Hillsborough 100 program on February 10, 2021. 4) Participated in NACD and AFCD officers planning meeting March 4, 2021 as a member of Florida “Host Committee” for the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting, February 11 – 15, 2022 in Orlando. Planning for potential tours to visit Florida State Fair and Strawberry operations (22 Fair – Feb 10 – 21), as well as possible cattle operations, etc. underway. 5) Participated in NACD Virtual Advocacy Week (March 22 – 26, 2021. 6) Continued working on activities for NACD National Stewardship Week (April 23 – May 2, 2021. 7) NACD Webinars.
- AFCD – Area 4 meeting scheduled for June 18, 2021 in Lake County. State meeting scheduled for September 8 - 10, 2021 in Daytona Beach. Participated in quarterly meeting.
- FCDEA – 1) Chaired February and March FCDEA statewide teleconferences. 2) Worked on FCDEA mid-year meeting, May 20 – 21, 2021 in Gainesville, including speakers and tours. 3) Began work on activities for State meeting, including auctions (split 75% FCDEA and 25% AFCD). 4) Continued work on 2 Florida tours for NACD meeting (funds to be split 50% FCDEA and 50% AFCD).
- Florida Strawberry Festival – March 4 – 14. Manned complimentary HSWCD exhibit in Grimes Building.
- Florida State Fair – April 22 – May 2, 2021 – HSWCD will have Exhibit in Ag Hall of Fame building (larger complimentary space) and participate in the “ Roots of the Fair” breakfast on Opening Day, April 22, 2021. District will also participate in the Ag Woman of the Year Luncheon on April 26, 2021. All other meal events canceled.
- Lipman Garden Challenge –2021 – Currently have over 40 schools planning to participate with garden challenge moved to later 2021 due to school restrictions. This year's participating groups to include school ag and FFA programs, science clubs, ESE classes, 4-H Clubs and others.
- 2021 Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – April 17, 2021 – May 9, 2021. 1) Tampa Bay Times tabloid to publish in Sunday Times (April 18, 2021); TBT (April 22, 2021); and distributed at Fairs and Festivals throughout the year. This year's tabloid will be HSWCD's largest yet, with 28 full color pages. Stories include Hugh Hammond Bennett; George Washington Carver; HSWCD – Who We Are and What We Do; Plastic Pollution; Lipman Garden Challenge; Fairs and Festivals; Conservation and Kids; HSWCD Proudly Supports; Projects; Logos; U-Picks; Let's Plant Some Trees; Community Gardens; AFCD; NACD; UF/IFAS; NRCS – National, State, Local; Local Working Group; Farm Bureaus – Hillsborough, Florida, American; FDACS; Florida Strawberry Growers Association; Hillsborough Ag Economic Development; SWFWMD; annual Conservation and Environmental Celebrations; and others. 2) Projects during the Challenge include schools, civic and youth organizations and other groups (See attached list). Because of continued COVID restrictions, a significant number of projects have been rescheduled until later in 2021. In addition, Hillsborough 100 Kickoff luncheon will be rescheduled during normal fall dates.

- Strawberry U-Pick – Due to the generosity of the Grooms family at Fancy Farms, a U-Pick was held February 27, 2021. Although the event was scheduled with only a couple of days’ notice, and berries were sold at \$1.00 a quart (with one free for every five purchased), the event raised \$4,657.60 for HSWCD youth programs, projects and activities, as well as scholarships.
- Blueberry U-Pick – BJ Duggal has offered to provide his blueberry fields, located in Lithia, for a U-Pick in May. Details of this event will be available within a few weeks.
- “Let’s Plant Some Trees” – This pine tree planting event is scheduled for June 12, 2021 at the Lower Green Swamp Preserve located on Knights Griffin Road. 200 volunteers will be planting 20,000 trees on 80 acres. This HSWCD project is being cosponsored by the Sustany Foundation, TREE. Inc., Rotary Club of Brandon Global and Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management. Participants will receive t-shirts and refreshments. Sustany Foundation has agreed to provide the 20,000 plants annually. Meetings held to coordinate project.
- Continued activities with international conservation/environmental group: ESRAG Biodiversity task force and Regional Task Force. Rotary has adopted the environment as its seventh avenue of service and will be offering grants for RI projects within this field beginning summer 2021.
- Participated in NRCS Technical Meeting , March 3, 2021.
- Hillsborough County Fair – Fair dates changed to September 23 – 26 and September 30 – October 3, 2021. HSWCD Great Plant Auction will be held on October 3, 2021. HSWCD will also have its annual exhibit with poster display and conduct the annual Youth Plant Show during the Fair.
- Continued visits to area agricultural operators to determine possible programs (HSWCD cost share or NRCS).
- Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Conference - attended by Tompkins and Brookins; participated in FFB Legislative Briefing.
- Presentations – Spoke (via zoom) before the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District, Spoke to Brandon Kiwanis Club; HSWCD Exhibit at Center Place Fine Arts reopening; NAACP zoom meeting.
- Soil and Water Boards – Working on programs with Collier County and Seminole County SWC Districts
- Other Activities: Chamber events with Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce * Plant City non-profit Roundtable * Community Roundtable Board (Trustee) * Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation Board * Hillsborough County Fair Board * Hillsborough Republican Party Executive Committee * Rotary Club of Brandon South Global * T.R.E.E. Inc. * Coalition of Community Gardens * Florida Strawberry Growers * Tiger Bay Club Legislative Review * Center Place V. Pres. * County Trainings
- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements, and Adjournment
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – June 2, 2021
- Adjournment
- Dinner

Events: See Next Page and Tabloid

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- April 7, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting , Florida Strawberry Growers
- April 17 – May 9, 2021 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- April 18, 2021 – Hillsborough 100 Tabloid in Tampa Bay Times
- April 22 – May 9, 2021 – Florida State Fair – exhibit, demos, etc.
- April 22, 2021 – 7:30 – 9:00AM -“Roots of the Fair” Breakfast @ Fair
- April 22, 2021 – Tabloid in *TBT
- April 26, 2021 – 11:30AM – Florida Woman of the Year in Agriculture” Luncheon @ State Fair
- April 23 – May 2, 2021 – NACD 65th Stewardship Week
- April 30, 2021 – National Arbor Day
- May 20 – 21, 2021 – FCDEA Mid-Year meeting in Gainesville
- May 27, 2021 – HSWCD/NRCS Local Working Group Meeting – 3:00PM – 5:30 PM, Florida Strawberry Growers
- June 2, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting
- June 5, 2020 - Coalition of Community Gardens – Grow Gardens Conference (Virtual Event)
- June 12. 2021 – 9:00AM - 3:00PM “Let’s Plant Some Trees” Event (20,000 pine trees on 80 acres with 200 volunteers – Pre-registration required), Lower Green Swamp Preserve, 3540 East Knights Griffin Road, Plant City, Florida 33565
- June 18, 2021 – Area 4 Meeting, Lake County
- August 4, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting (Tentative)
- August 2021 – NACD Southeast Meeting – The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama
- September 8 – 10, 2021 – AFCD State Meeting – Daytona Beach
- October 6, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting (Tentative)
- December 1, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting (Tentative)
- February 11 – 15, 2022 – NACD Annual Meeting – Orlando, Florida



PLEASE NOTE: A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL HILLSBOROUGH 100 PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IS INCLUDED IN THE HILLSBOROUGH 100 CONSERVATION CHALLENGE TABLOID.

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