

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Dec 21, 2022

Supervisors in Attendance

Andrew Brooks, Chair
Sonja Brookins – Vice Chair
Mark Proctor - Supervisor
Karen Cox Jaroch - Supervisor

Others in Attendance

Betty Jo Tompkins - HSWCD Executive Director
Linda Chion - HSWCD/PT Computer graphics
Kathy Eckdahl – Adm Asst III, HSWCD Exec. Dir.
Melissa Jackson – Community Outreach, HSWCD
Simon Bollin - Hills Ag. Economic Development
Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, NRCS District Conservationist
Walter Albarran -Asst. State Conservationist for Field
Operations at USDA-NRCS (zoom)
Mike Morris - attendee
Starr Brookins - attendee
Tony Jackson - attendee
Cortney Plues - attendee
Barbara Plues - attendee

Call to Order

BROOKS, chair, called meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

MINUTES

PROCTOR moved for approval of Oct 12, 2022 Board meeting minutes. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

LOCAL WORKING GROUP (LWG)

TOMPKINS reported that a report was sent to AFCD including LWG priority results from feedback survey.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BROOKS, chair, reviewed the financials.

● General bank account	\$1,517.49	Balance as of Nov. 30, 2022
● Hillsborough 100 account	\$10,574.98	Balance as of Nov. 30, 2022
● Mini-Farms account	\$73,973.51	Balance as of Nov. 30, 2022
● Envirothon	\$395.66	Balance as of Nov. 30, 2022

PROCTOR moved to accept and file for audit financial report for Nov 30, 2022 JAROCH seconded. Motion passed.

BUSINESS

FDACS REPORT - none at this time.

SWFWMD - none at this time.

AGRIBUSINESS REPORT

BOLLIN reported AEDC (Agriculture Economic Development Council) held a meeting to outline what was occurring.

NRCS REPORT

DIAZ-ALVAREZ – reported on NRCS. Received 44 applications through EQUIP. Hurricane Ian Emergency relief has 31 applications to be reviewed. Conservation Planner, Carolina Lucina, has joined the NRCS staff. DIAZ-ALVAREZ thanked TOMPKINS for hosting the LWG meeting. ALBARRAN reported 400 requests at the Area Level for EQUIP. A total of 315 applications for financial assistance requests due to Hurricane Ian. State has given 12 million dollars for assistance.

REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS

BROOKS thanked JACKSON for her service as a Supervisor on HSWCD. Accepted her resignation from the board as she is newly employed with HSWCD in Community Outreach position.

BROOKS reported regarding the updated office space agreement with NRCS. NRCS (DIAZ-ALVAREZ & ALBARRAN), TOMPKINS and BROOKS met to discuss this new contact prior to this meeting. The issues included: space for workers and work hours to be completed by County employees for NRCS (Federal). Hours requested totaled 3,120 for NRCS for Tech Assistance and other duties. This was to be in exchange for office space (2 cubicles and 1 reception totaling 450 sq.ft.). ALBARRAN reported that NRCS receives 50%-100% support from other counties. TOMPKINS clarified that with the agreement of the chair, and County Attorney's Office after reviewing the proposed contract, all advised her not to sign. A new office space has been donated by City Properties. The office for HSWCD will have a separate entrance, 2 offices and a large general office area. Hillsborough County will provide computers, phones, and other items for the office.

BROOKINS moved to accept the offer from City Properties for the new office space. PROCTOR seconded. Motion passed.

BROOKINS moved to not sign the proposed office space contract with NRCS. PROCTOR seconded. Motion passed.

BUSINESS

- SB 1078: TOMPKINS reported that local legislators are being requested to review legislation as it pertains to individual District boundaries within the county.
- For 2023 session, a new bill is to be presented to prevent foreign ownership of FL Agriculture land.
- 2023 Legislative session opens March 7, 2023 with Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol on March 8, 2023.
- EPA proposal that HSWCD and others oppose to remove Thiram from approved use list, awaiting report from EPC.
- AFCD - State meeting now scheduled for Feb 6-8, 2023 in Gainesville.
- Participated in AFCD quarterly meeting Nov 28, 2022 and announced HSWCD would seek legislative review regarding HSWCD in SB 1078.
- Ag Venture presented pollinator program in Fall, over 2,600 3rd graders attended. HSWCD will participate in Spring Ag Venture April 18-21, 2023
- 2023 NACD Poster Contest "One Water" underway. Contest runs until April 28, 2023.
- Environthon - HSWCD plans to host the event in 2023.
- Land Judging - HSWCD will provide a training opportunity for all teams. All teams that participate in the training can advance to State Competition to be held on March 31, 2023

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Year In Review Presentation (printed color copy of Year In Review was provided to all Supervisors)
- Update on Julia Mosley Property – PROCTOR elected President of the Board, TOMPKINS was elected as Secretary of the Board. HSWCD will have a role regarding agricultural and conservation efforts on the Julia Mosley Property.
- Meetings/Activities coming up: FL State Fair Feb 9-20, FL Farm Bureau at State Capital March 8th, FL Strawberry Festival March 2-12
- Next Board Meeting Jan 18, 2023 at 4:30 pm at FSGA
- See Agenda for full listing of programs, projects and activities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisors conducted review of TOMPKINS performance, ranking her 4.75 out of 5.0. PROCTOR moved to extend her contract for 3 years, commencing November 2022, with an additional one year extension optional. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed. PROCTOR moved to provide TOMPKINS a 5% raise, commencing November 2022. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

JAROCH moved to nominate PROCTOR as Chair of HSWCD for the upcoming term. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

DINNER SERVED