

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 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 December 9, 2020 – *Chairman Mike Hepburn*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Andrew Brooks*
Farm Service Agency Report – *Bronwyn Bethea-Rowland, Farm Loan Manager*
NRCS District/Area Report – *Walter Albarran, Area Conservationist (Via Zoom)*
NRCS State Report – *Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist*
Florida Strawberry Growers – *Kenneth Parker, Executive Director*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
SWFWMD Ag Team – *Jeff Whealton, Ag Team Manager*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Matt Vinzant, Project Manager*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Ken Griner, Project Engineer*
Agribusiness Development Report – *Simon Bolin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
AFCD Report – *Richard Darby, AFCD First Vice-President*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman Mike Hepburn*

BUSINESS

- Update on Selection Process for new Administrative Services staff position and MIL Technician
- Update on new HSWCD website
- Education Programs
 - Poster Contests – 1) 2021 Poster Contest – “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” Scheduled thru March 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. Over 1,500 poster requests by schools. 2) 2020 Poster Contests – “Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?” and “Save Water, Live Stroger” – All student entrants have been mailed personalized certificates (with visual of their poster on certificate), with winners also receiving checks. Posters being held at office until display at 2020 Hillsborough County Fair in October (with 2021 posters).. Students from 2020 and 2021 contests will also receive a ticket to the Fair.
 - Speech Contest – Applications for 2021 HSWCD Speech Contest – “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” are being distributed through schools and youth organizations for contest in April 2021
 - 2021 Envirothon – Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon pending (modified State Contest virtual April 24)
 - Ag Venture – Live events at Florida State Fairgrounds pending for Spring 2021
 - Land Judging – Pending HC School decisions.
 - Materials for Supervisor Brookins presentation before HCC Crop – February 6, 2021

- Director's Report, review of Overall Programs- *Betty Jo Tompkins*
 - NACD – Selected as a speaker for 2021 NACD Annual Meeting (February 1 – 10) via zoom. Prepared and taped 25 minute program on communications, etc. featuring HSWCD and the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge to be presented February 9, 2021. 2) Registered Board and staff for NACD. 3) Participated in NACD national webinar on Urban and Community Grant Programs regarding Hillsborough 100 program. 4) Participated in NACD Field to Market program webinar. 5) Serving on Florida “Host Committee” for the 2022 NACD Annual Meeting, February 11 – 15, 2022 in Orlando. Goal to possibly set up tours to visit Florida State Fair and Strawberry operations (22 Fair – Feb 10 – 21). 6) Planning participation in NACD Virtual Advocacy Week (arch 22 – 26, 2021 .7) Working projects for NACD National Stewardship Week (April 23 – May 2, 2021).
 - AFCD – Area meetings to be held mid-May through July 8, 2021. State meeting scheduled for September 8 - 10, 2021 in Jacksonville area.
 - FCDEA – Chaired December and January FCDEA statewide teleconferences. 2) Worked on additional updates for Statewide Survey. 3) Scheduled FCDEA mid-year meeting for May 20 – 21, 2021 at NRCS Headquarters in Gainesville (office courtesy of Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist). Meeting moved from Tallahassee in March due to cancellation of Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Day.
 - Florida Strawberry Festival – March 4 – 14. Complimentary exhibit in Grimes Building. Farm Credit Breakfast and Grand Parade Luncheon not confirmed. Other events (Exhibitors Dinner, Media Party, etc. canceled due to COVID..
 - Florida State Fair – April 22 – May 2, 2021 - Exhibit in Ag Hall of Fame building (larger complimentary space). HSWCD demonstrations, etc. for the Fair and will make conservation kits for youth participants. All luncheons and banquets are currently on hold.
 - Lipman Garden Challenge –2021 – Anticipate over 25 schools participating with garden challenge moved to later 2021 due to school restrictions. This year's participating groups to include school ag programs, science clubs, ESE classes, 4-H Clubs and others.
 - 2021 Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – April 17, 2021 – May 9, 2021. Tampa Bay Times tabloid to publish in Sunday Times (April 18, 2021) and TBT (April 22, 2021). Since Times is discontinuing their own printing, the tabloid size will be slightly different. Other major projects during the Challenge will be April 24. 2021 Arbor Day event – Land O Lakes; May 1, 2021 – Tree planting (approx. 20,000 trees) as well as multiple projects by schools, youth and civic organizations. Due to COVID issues. Hillsborough 100 Kickoff luncheon will be rescheduled during normal fall dates.
 - Continued work with international conservation/environmental group: ESRAG and Biodiversity task force. Working through ESRAG to expand Hillsborough 100 participation by Rotary and other civic groups. Presented a zoom program on HSWCD and Hillsborough 100 to Collegeville Pennsylvania Rotary Club, January 27, 2021, with other programs in 2021
 - Participated in American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.
 - Hillsborough County Fair – October 2021 – Planning underway for HSWCD Exhibit with poster display;, Youth Plant Show ;Great Plant Auction; and possible meal event.
 - Set up visits to area agricultural operators to determine possible programs (HSWCD cost share or NRCS).
 - Other Activities: Chamber events with Greater Plant City Chamber and 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. Quarterly * Coalition of Community Gardens Quarterly * Special Districts Summit; Florida Strawberry Growers * Tiger Bay Club * County Trainings (COVID, CYBER, P CARD)

- Sustainability Plan Update
- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements, and Adjournment
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – April 7, 2021
- Adjournment
- Dinner

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- February 3, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting @ FSGA
- February 1– 10, 2021 – NACD Annual Meeting – Now via Zoom
- March 4 – 14, 2021 – Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City
- March 8, 2021 – 7am – Farm Credit Breakfast with Commissioner of Agriculture (Tentative)
- March 8, 2021 – Grand Parade Luncheon, following Breakfast (Tentative)
- March 20, 2021 – 10:00 am - Florida Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Conference, Ag Hall of Fame, State Fairgrounds
- March 22 – 26, 2021 – NACD Virtual Advocacy Week
- March 27 – 28, 2021 – 9am – 4 pm - Tampa Garden Club “GreenFest 2021” (Tentative)
- April 7, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting (Tentative)
- April 17 – May 9, 2021 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- April 17, 2021 - Gasparilla Festival
- April 18, 2021 – Hillsborough 100 Tabloid in Tampa Bay Times
- April 22 – May 9, 2021 – Florida State Fair – exhibits, demos, etc. “Taste of Florida” Breakfast, Governor’s Lunch, Woman of the Year in Agriculture, Ag Hall of Fame, Champion of Champions (these events not yet confirmed for 2021)
- April 23 – May 2, 2021 – NACD 65th Stewardship Week
- April 24, 2021 – Arbor Day Event – Land O Lakes
- April 30, 2021 – National Arbor Day
- May 1, 2021 – Tree Planting Event (20,000 trees)
- May 6, 2021 – Clean Air Fair – Tampa (Tentative)
- Mid May – July 8, 2021 Area meetings to be scheduled for new 6 Area structure
- May 20 – 21, 2021 – FCDEA Mid-Year meeting in Gainesville
- June 2, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting (Tentative)
- June 2021 – Grow Gardens Conference
- 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 – Jacksonville Area
- 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



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