

HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2019 4:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM by Vice Chair Michael Hepburn.

Supervisors in attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD, Executive Director
Jennifer Gray, HSWCD, Administrative Services Coordinator
Diana Avellanet-Echevarria, NRCS, District Conservationist
Simon Bollin, Economic Development, Agribusiness Development Manager
Lisa Strange, FDACS, Environmental Specialist III
Jeff Whealton, SWFWMD, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Matt Vinzant, SWFWMD, Project Manager

INTRODUCE MEMBER(S) OF THE PUBLIC

Vice Chair requested members and guests introduce themselves and offer public comment.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Sup. Brooks moved approval of February 20, 2019 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 \$31,011.85 and ending balance of \$18,972.55
- Petty Cash account beginning balance of \$120.50 and ending balance of \$120.50
- Mini-Farm account beginning balance of \$61,062.95 and ending balance of \$52,215.61
- Hillsborough 100 account beginning balance of \$2,305.83 and ending balance of \$1,435.83

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

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

NRCS REPORT

Diana Avellanet-Echevarria reported 8 EQIP applications (2 CAP, 1 Socially Disadvantaged, 1 On-Farm Energy Initiative and 4 Area Three). Awaiting Farm Bill updates and State notifications. All CSP's have been completed. CP Contracts: 5 expiring and 2 under modification. Annual reviews in process for all active contracts. Three wetland determinations are pending. Organic payment limitation has changed from \$80k to \$140k for organic initiative contracts that are entered during the 2019-2023 period. No longer 100% confirming land control at the time of obligation, the participant will self-certify land control with a form. Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners annual compliance review presented and submitted to Board for signatures. Sup. Brooks motioned to accept and support the NRCS Civil Rights Responsibilities. Motion 2nd by Sup. Dumke. Motion passed unanimously.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Simon Bollin reported Tuesday May 7, next Ag Economic Development Council meeting at HC Extension office. Thursday May 23rd is the Spring Field Hop Day at Gulf Coast Research Center. Thursday, June 6, will be the Veteran Aquaculture Tour (VAT) 2. Monday June 17th, hosting a delegation from Australia to tour the hop yard as the climates and environment in New South Wales and Tampa are similar. Veterans Agriculture Selection Program (VASP) renamed Veterans Florida Agriculture Program (VFAP). VFAP has applied for a USDA grant and is awaiting response. VFAP stats: 2 openings at Gulf Coast Research Center with 24 applicants, 1 opening at Quincy with 12 applicants, 1 opening at Ona with 12 applicants. Program is trying to get positions started in Immokalee and Belle Glade.

SWFWMD

Jeff Whealton reported SWFWMD is adjusting to recent employees retiring, but continuing services as normal. The NRCS Soils Contract was not renewed.

Matt Vinzant reported the Mini Farms cap was bumped to; \$8k, they currently have \$13k out of \$150k remaining.

FDACS

Lisa Strange reported self-verification initiative (SV's) have been renamed common practices status report (CPSR). Self-verifications deadline has been extended to April 30th. New Director of OAWP will be starting on April 29th.

REQUEST FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

BUSINESS:

- A. Update on BMP Program- Tompkins reported for Erik Moretuzzo: Attended BMP meeting with UF/IFAS, searched unenrolled parcels, worked on Implementation Verifications, completed 175 Common Practice Status Reports (CPSR), assisted Land Judging Competition, attended training in Ocala for Rainbow River BMAP enrollment efforts, worked on enrollments (1 specialty fruit and nut, 4 cow calf and 3 VAC) and worked on 2 cross fence cost-share projects.
- B. Update on Education Programs- Tompkins gave an update on programs. Land Judging Competition, special thanks to our volunteers of land, services, food and time: Fulton Family Farms, Castillo Farm, Doug Holmberg, Martin Figueroa, and Craig Prink. Top winners of Land Judging were Turkey Creek Middle School and Durant High School; a full list of results is available in the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid. Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon was held at the Hillsborough River State Park. Overall high scoring teams and individual topic awards given. 14 Schools competed, with a total of 18 teams. Poster, Photo and Speech Contests are being promoted in the tabloid. The Area speech contest will be held here in Hillsborough County at a TBD date ranging May-June on a weekend. Deadlines for Speech Contest: May 15, Poster Contest: April 26, and Photo Contest: information will be available shortly.
- C. Directors Report- Director Tompkins provided update on the Florida Strawberry Festival. HSWCD's exhibit was set up in the Grimes Building, attended the Farm Credit Breakfast and the Grand Parade Luncheon. Attended the Florida Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Conference in Longwood. Tompkins received one of five scholarships to the 2019 conference. Participated in the two-day Tampa Garden Fest with the exhibit and distributed fertilizer sticks. Exhibit and materials presented at the Brandon Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Expo, Chairman Proctor and Director Tompkins spoke on programs and activities. Spoke at the Coalition of Community Gardens Annual Conference. Tompkins spoke with McLean Middle School administration about a potential garden. AFCD Area 3 Annual Meeting will be held at the end of April. AFCD Quarterly Board Meeting will be in Chiefland on June 8th, AFCD Annual Meeting in Ocala on July 11-13th, FCDEA will hold annual meeting during the AFCD Annual Meeting. Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge will be held April 20th through May 5th. The Tampa Bay Times will release the tabloid on April 26th. UF/IFAS Extension Office pledged to perform many projects, other notable projects include the Lipman Garden Challenge, Plant City Main Street Festival "Make Every Day Earth Day", Plant City Commons Community Garden's "Garden Walk 2019", Discovery Quest and Gasp Our Beads of Tampa Bay. Update on the 2019 Florida Legislative Session: the budget is under review; major cuts are expected. Tompkins visited Dart Corp and toured their recycling program. Participated in Plant City Chamber Ag Tour, M&B Products "Farm Night BBQ", and Florida Strawberry Media Party. Participated in activities with Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce, Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce, The Community Roundtable of Brandon, Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation, Hillsborough County 4-H Strawberry U-Pick, Alafia River State Park Review Committee and Julia Mosely 100th Birthday Party.
- D. No Public Correspondence.
- E. No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm. Dinner served.