

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 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 April 7, 2021 – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Sonja Brookins*
NRCS District/Area Report – *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, District Conservationist*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Ken Griner, Project Engineer*
Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*

BUSINESS

- Election of Supervisor to fill vacant position
- Education Programs
 - Update on Poster Contests – 1) 2021 NACD Poster Contest – “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” Approximately 300 posters were received covering grades K – 12. Personalized certificates were completed for every entrant and checks provided to entries covering 1st, 2nd, 3rd places and honorable mentions. Certificates and checks were delivered to all participating schools. Posters being held to exhibit at Hillsborough County Fair and all entrants will receive a free Fair ticket. 2) 2021 Summer Poster Contest – Theme: “Why Conservation Matters” – Contest runs from June 1 through August 20, 2021, with awards same as Healthy Forests contest. Focus during the summer will be on summer recreation programs. 3) 2022 NACD Poster Contest – “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” – Contest will commence with the 2021 – 2022 school year. Contacts will be made with public, private, parochial, charter, home and virtual students.
 - Speech Contest - 2021 HSWCD Speech Contest – “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” entries are being judged for content and then presentation.
 - Envirothon – Tampa Bay Regional Envirothon will be returning in 2022 with a live competition.
 - Ag Venture – Live events at Florida State Fairgrounds pending for fall 2021 and spring 2022.
 - Land Judging – Competition will resume as a live event for 2021 – 2022.
- Director’s Report, review of Overall Programs- *Betty Jo Tompkins*
 - NACD – 2022 NACD Annual Meeting scheduled for February 12- 16 as a live event at Hilton Orlando Disney Springs. Tompkins serving on the Host Committee. Events will include a “Fresh From Florida” commodity dinner sponsored by AFCD at the hotel on Saturday, February 12, 2022. In addition, two tours are planned by AFCD/FCDEA to feature Hillsborough County. Tour 1) will be a Florida State Fair tour scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2022, with tour 2) being strawberry operations, slated for Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Participated in planning teleconference (5/13) & Urban Ag zoom meetings.

- AFCD – Worked with AFCD to coordinate tours and other activities related to 2022 NACD meeting. Area 4 annual meeting scheduled for June 18, 2021 in Tavares (Lake County) , beginning at 9 am. State AFCD Annual meeting scheduled for September 9 – 10 at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach. Meeting with AFCD leadership for quarterly meeting, June 4, 2021 in Daytona to continue planning program and securing speakers.
- FCDEA – Chaired monthly FCDEA teleconference. Mid-year meeting had to be postponed due to venue issues and COVID. Planning underway for upcoming events.
- Florida State Fair – April 22 – May 2, 2021 – HSWCD was provided a 20' complimentary exhibit space in the Ag Hall of Fame for duration of the Fair. Supervisors and staff participated in the opening day "Roots of the Fair" breakfast and the Woman of the Year in Ag Luncheon. Tompkins also participated in Champion of Champion event. Conservation kits were distributed to youth participants. Tompkins has secured the entire center section of the Ag Hall of Fame Building (30' x 60') for a display at the 2022 Fair featuring "Conservation is Everybody's Business". The exhibit will focus on soil, water, air, natural resources and include characters representing the major pollinators ...bees, bats, birds and butterflies.
- Lipman Garden Challenge –2021 Challenge
- will move to fall due to school restrictions. This year's participating groups, which will be the largest to date, will 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 (28 full color pages) published in Sunday Times (April 18, 2021) and TBT (April 22, 2021). The tabloid received excellent reviews and interest from both adults and youth alike. Hillsborough 100 activities included road and river clean-ups; recycling of paper, plastic, electronics and batteries; tree and flower and wildflower plantings; seminars and webinars. Additional activities are planned for summer and fall.
- Miracles Landscape Project – May 1 and 2 numerous youth and adult groups assisted HSWCD to landscape Miracles Children's Home in Thonotosassa. The facility for abandoned, abused and trafficked girls received a makeover with flowers, bushes and trees with extensive mulch. Many thanks to former HSWCD Board Chair Roy Davis for assistance in the landscape design and securing the plant material and to Nicole Humphreys and her family for securing many of the youth volunteers.
- Blueberry U-Pick – HSWCD held its first blueberry U-Pick on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Duggal & Sons Blueberry Farm and raised \$1,300. Many thanks to the Duggal's for making this opportunity available. Plans for the funds include:1) \$600. To sponsor a rain barrel decorating contest for youth groups at the Hillsborough County Fair, with the winners being auctioned off at the Plant Auction and the first place winner being part of the HSWCD display at the Florida State Fair; 2) \$200. To help Vista Community Gardens to treat soil for a large wildflower display; 3) \$200.00 for lighted planter boxes for three schools in food insecure areas.
- "Let's Plant Some Trees" event on June 18, 2021, Tree planting (approx. 20,000 long leaf pine trees) to be planted in the lower green swamp preserve, 3540 East Knights Griffin Road, Plant City 33565 by youth and adult volunteers, Sponsors for this HSWCD event include Sustany Foundation, TREE, Inc., Rotary, Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management and Hillsborough Sustainability. Supporters include Florida Strawberry Growers, Odiorne Insurance, Mosaic, Hillsborough Democratic Party. Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee and others.

- Local Working Group –Held Local Working Group meeting – May 27, 2021 at Florida Strawberry Growers Association with 22 participants. Attendees included: Supervisors Brooks and Brookins; Walter Albarran and Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, NRCS; Kenneth Parker, Executive Director, Florida Strawberry Growers; Stephen Gran, Director, UF/IFAS Extension Service; Dennis Carlton, Jr., President, Hillsborough County Farm Bureau; Matt Warren, Environmental Manager, FDACS; Dennis Carlton, Chair, Hillsborough County Agriculture Economic Dev. Council; Simon Bollin. Manager, Hillsborough County Agricultural Industry Development; Jeff Whealton and Ken Griner, SWFWMD; Tompkins, Executive Director, HSWCD. Following presentations, participants completed questionnaires, which were then tabulated and I final report was submitted to AFCD/NRCS/HSWCD.
- Continued work with international conservation/environmental group: ESRAG and Biodiversity task force.
- FDACS – Completed transfer of truck to FDACS/Hendry County (4/14)
- FDACS – Signed cost share continuation agreement for 3 year period, commencing July 1, 2021 at \$150,000. Annually.
- Hillsborough County Fair 2021 – September 23 – 26 and September 30 – October 3, 2021 – Participation to include HSWCD Exhibit with poster display; Youth Plant Show; Rain barrel decorating contest; Great Plant Auction - 2 pm, October 3, 2021.
- Wrote articles om Strawberry U-Pick; Local Working Group; “Let’s Plant Some Trees”; NRCS; and other subjects published in the In The Field magazine.
- Interviewed by Spectrum media in Tampa and Orlando for article on Conservation Districts.
- Continue visits to area agricultural operators to determine possible programs (HSWCD cost share or NRCS) they may be eligible to participate in.
- Other Activities: Chamber events with Greater Plant City Chamber (Capitol Coffee Legislative Meeting (5/12);) and Plant City non-profit Roundtable * Greater Riverview Chamber new office opening * Community Roundtable Board (Trustee) and Dinner * Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation Board * Hillsborough County Fair Board * Harvest Awards Program * Hillsborough Republican Party Executive Committee * Rotary Club of Brandon South Global * Rotary District Conference * T.R.E.E. Inc. Quarterly * Center Place Executive Board and Board * Coalition of Community Gardens Quarterly * Agricultural Economic Development Council

- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements, and Adjournment
- Next Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m. – August 4, 2021
- Adjournment
- Dinner
- Upcoming Events and Activities – See Next Page

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- June 2, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting
- June 4, 2021 – AFCD Quarterly Meeting – Daytona Beach
- June 12, 2021 – 9:00AM – 3:00PM – “let’s Plant Some Trees” event
Lower Green Swamp Preserve, 3540 East Knights Griffin Road, Plant
City, Florida 33565 – 20,000 long-leaf pine trees planted on 80 acres
by volunteers (Pre-registration Required)
- June 18, 2021 – 9:00AM - Area 4 meeting – Lake County, UF/IFAS
Lake County, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida 32778.
- July 24, 2021 – Coalition of Community Gardens Annual Conference -
Virtual
- August 4, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting
- August 8 – 10, 2021 – NACD Southeast Meeting – The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama
- August 9, 2021 – Southeast Region Hall of Fame Luncheon
- September 9 – 10, 2021 – AFCD State Meeting – Plaza Resort & Spa, 600 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona
Beach, Florida 32118
- September 18 – 22, 2021 – Set up for HSWCD activities at Hillsborough County Fair
- September 23 – 26 and September 30 – October 3, 2021 – Hillsborough County Fair, State Road 60 –
September 23 – Harvest Awards; Duration of the Fair: HSWCD booth; Posters on display from HSWCD
poster contests; Sponsor of Youth Plant Show; Sponsor of youth Rain Barrel Decorating Contest.
- October 3, 2021 – 2:00PM – 5th Annual HSWCD Great Plant Auction – Hillsborough County Fair
- October 6, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting
- October 7, 2021 – Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Dinner
- November 17, 2021 – Florida Ag Expo at UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Station, Balm
- December 1, 2021 – 4:30 pm – HSWCD Board Meeting
- February 12 – 16, 2022 – NACD Annual Meeting – Hilton Orlando Disney Springs, Orlando, Florida –
Saturday, February 12, 2022 – Florida Dinner at NACD Annual Meeting; Sunday, February 13, 2022 –
NACD Tour to the Florida State Fair, Tampa; Tuesday, February 15, 2022 – NACD Tour to Hillsborough
County Strawberry operations. Other NACD activities and events TBA.
- February 10 – 21 2022 – Florida State Fair – HSWCD to have featured center space in the Ag Hall of Fame
Building. Promoting “Conservation is Everybody’s Business”. Events: February 10, 2022 - Fresh From
Florida Breakfast; February 10, 2022 – Governor’s Lunch; February 14, 2022 – Ag Woman of the Year
Luncheon; February 15, 2022 – AG Hall of Fame Dinner; February 20, 2022 – Champion of Champion
Awards Program
- March 3 – 13, 2022 – Florida Strawberry Festival – Exhibit in Grimes Building. Events: March 3, 2022 –
Farm Credit Breakfast; March 7, 2022 – Grand Parade Luncheon. Other Events TBA.



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