

**HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Board of Supervisors \* District Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 29, 2020  
4:30 P.M.**

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM.

**Supervisors in attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD Executive Director  
Debra McGee, HSWCD Conservation Outreach Technician  
Bailey Buchanon, Ag Conservation Technician  
Rudy Haidermote, Hillsborough County Attorney, Sr. Asst. County Atty.  
Diana Avellanet – Echevarria, NRCS District Conservationist  
Lisa Strange, FDACS, Environmental Specialist II  
Matt Vinzant, SWFWMD, Project Manager  
Simon Bolin, Agribusiness Development

**INTRODUCE MEMBER(S) OF THE PUBLIC**

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

**PRESENTATION by County Attorney Rudy Haidermote**

County Attorney provided update on issues relating to HSWCD , Hillsborough County, etc. and answered Board questions.

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**

Board Meeting Minutes were presented and approved by unanimous vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Sup. Dumke requested that Treasurer's report be waived until the next Board meeting and would include the annual Audit. Approved.

**NRCS REPORT**

NRCS District Conservationist Diana Avellanet reported on EQIP applications and payments, as well as the Farm Bill.

**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Simon Bolin reported on Ag Economic Development Council, veterans and other programs.

**SWFWMD**

Matt Vinzant provided update on Farms Program and Ag Team activities.

**FDACS**

Lisa Strange reported on current FDACS activities at local and state levels.

**REQUEST FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

Continued Next Page

## BUSINESS:

- A. Update on cost share programs – Ag Technician Bailey Buchanon reported on current cost share projects and plans for balance of 2019 -2020 funds.
  
- B. Update on Education Programs- Tompkins updated activities related to HSWCD youth programs: 1) Poster contest “Where would we Bee without Pollinators?” Promotional materials prepared and distributed to area schools. Contest deadline: March 31, 2020; 2) 2020 Envirothon scheduled for March 12, 2020 at Hillsborough River State Park. Training workshop held at County Extension Office Saturday, January 25, 2020; Plans continuing for Ag Venture and Land Judging Contests.
  
- C. Director’s Report- Director Tompkins and Supervisor Brooks reported on Farm Bureau Legislative Day at the state capitol in Tallahassee, December 10, 2019 with exhibit, breakfast, legislative meetings and Taste of Florida evening event. Tompkins reviewed other programs: 1) Hillsborough County Fair, planned for October 22 – 25 and October 29 – November 1, 2020, with exhibit in main building, poster contest display, sponsorship of Youth Plant Show, Harvest Awards and annual Plant Auction set for Sunday, October 25, 2020; 2) Florida State Fair, February 6 – 17, 2020 with exhibit in Ag Hall of Fame, Taste of Florida Breakfast (February 6, 2020) providing samples to approx. 400, “Hillsborough Harvested” demonstrations, Governor’s Lunch (February 6, 2020), Woman of the Year in Ag (February 10, 2020) and Ag Hall of Fame (February 11, 2020); 3)NACD Annual Meeting – February 7 – 11, 2020, Las Vegas (Chair Proctor and Director Tompkins); 4) Florida Strawberry Festival (February 27 – March 8, 2020) with exhibit in Grimes Building, Farm Credit Breakfast (March 2, 2020) and Grand Parade Luncheon (March 2, 2020); 5) FCDEA – Mid-year meeting scheduled for March 1 – 2, 2020 in conjunction with Strawberry Festival; 6) Lipman Garden Challenge – November 2019 – March 2020 =- 26 schools participating (compared to 12 in 2017, 16 in 2018); 7) Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – Set for April 18 – May 10, 2020 with all types of programs, projects and activities with agricultural and business groups, civic clubs, churches, educational institutions, governmental entities, schools and others. Tampa Bay Times 24 page color tabloid scheduled for April publication; 8) “Gasp – Our Beads of Tampa Bay” – dive scheduled for February 2, 2020 to remove Gasparilla beads and other debris from the Bay; 9) Subpoena to appear before Asst. Statewide Prosecutor George Bedell, February 3, 2020 regarding criminal investigation related to previous civil case HSWCD was removed from; 10) Other upcoming events: GreenFest 2020 – March 28 – 29, 2020; Crawfish Festival – April 18, 2020. Other activities: Hillsborough County and Florida Farm Bureau, Greater Brandon Chamber, Greater Plant City Chamber, Greater Riverview Chamber, Community Roundtable, Tampa Bay Beekeepers, Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation, Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee, Rotary Club of Brandon South Global.
  
- D. No Public Correspondence.
  
- E. No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. Dinner served.