

# Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting Minutes

Oct 12, 2022

## Supervisors in Attendance

Andrew Brooks, Chair  
Sonja Brookins – Vice Chair (zoom)  
Melissa Jackson – Treasurer  
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 to HSWCD Director  
Simon Bollin - Hills Ag. Economic Development  
Ken Griner – SWFWMD (zoom)  
Thomas Stevens – SWFWMD (zoom)  
Jeff Wheaton – SWFWMD (zoom)  
Leslie Diaz-Alvarez NRCS (zoom)  
Mike Morris - attendee

## Call to Order

BROOKS, chair, called meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

## MINUTES

JAROCH moved for approval of Aug 31, 2022 Board meeting minutes. JACKSON seconded. Motion passed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

JACKSON, treasurer, reviewed the financials.

• General bank account	\$4,467.69	Balance as of Sept 30, 2022
• Hillsborough 100 account	\$6,080.85	Balance as of Sept 30, 2022
• Mini-Farms account	\$78,561.23	Balance as of Sept 30, 2022
• Envirothon	\$395.66	Balance as of Sept 30, 2022

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

## BUSINESS

### NRCS REPORT

DIAZ-ALVAREZ – reported on NRCS. Received 44 applications for FY 2023. USDA is offering disaster recovery assistance following Hurricane Ian. Producers may submit applications by email or phone. Start waivers do not guarantee project approval. Applications and waivers need

to be completed before the start of EQUIP approved conservation practices. 3 pending HEL determinations. There are no pending wetland determinations at this time. Annual Review and Practice Reminder in process for all contracts. Spot checks are occurring. TOMPKINS reported that HSWCD would refer nurserymen who are donating to Plant Auction to NRCS if they are in need of Emergency Assistance.

### **FDACS REPORT**

WARREN – none at this time.

### **SWFWMD**

WHEALTON reported SWFWMD is working on various projects with farmers. GRINER reported that money was available for Farms Programs including Mini Farms. TOMPKINS clarified that Cost Share regular funds were also available

### **AGRIBUSINESS REPORT**

BOLLIN reported that the hops crop was affected by Hurricane Ian. Wind and rain were an issue for the crop. Hops were harvested to ensure usage. TOMPKINS expressed concern about rainfall affecting the hops crop. BOLLIN clarified Spring/Fall season was dry for the hops. Grand Central Brewing will be utilizing the hops to brew various beers. Hops crop samples will be presented at FL Ag Expo. The hops will reflect the flavors of Florida. Total of 25 varieties of the hops. Evaluating hops to give vital feedback about the quality and appeal of each.

### **REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS**

TOMPKINS reported on the Supreme Court Case from California. The issue was pig crating. National Pork Producers and American Farm Bureau Federation are involved in this case. The cost of pork would increase dramatically due to the pig crating issue if legislation is updated. TOMPKINS reported on the New Zealand issue of a burp tax to be enforced on cows and sheep. The tax would be for each animal, also driving up the cost of meat.

### **BUSINESS**

- SB 1078: TOMPKINS reported that the position taken by the Board at the August meeting was included in a report sent to FDACS. New Ag Commissioner to be elected in Nov. should bring further review of this issue.
- Thiram: no update at this time. Growers are still allowed to use Thiram.
- AFCD: TOMPKINS reported the State meeting moved from Sept. to Jan. has now moved to Feb 6-8, 2023 at Hilton UF.
  - PROCTOR moved to request a financial disclosure from AFCD as related to State Meeting. JACKSON seconded. Motion passed.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- HSWCD Poster Contests supported by 4 H, FFA, Scouts, and various church groups were successful
  - 5 HSWCD winning posters won the Area Competition, went to state, and three are now representing Florida in the National Competition
- Summer Poster Contest theme Our Perfect Pollinators. 2023 NACD Poster Contest theme "One Water"
- Plans are underway for Envirothon to return in 2023
- State Land Judging Contest will be in North Florida. Workshop for our county will be held instead of an official contest.

This workshop will be more inclusive to Pinellas and Hillsborough County students at this time and still allow all teams to advance to the state competition.

  - JAROCH moved to hold a local workshop in lieu of Land Judging Contest unless there is a change in the rules. JACKSON seconded. Motion passed.
- Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout Festival (GS Fest) – 600 water bracelets were distributed. TOMPKINS and ECKDAHL presented.
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Farm Bureau dinner –BROOKS, PROCTOR, BROOKINS, JACKSON and TOMPKINS attended the dinner. Plant Auction flyers distributed and HSWCD display presented.
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Lennard School House dedication at the Hillsborough Co Fairgrounds. Tompkins to attend.
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> scheduled for Hillsborough County Fair Work Day
- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> FL Ag Expo HSWCD will present info on disaster relief, NRCS will also be there. Encourage participation in Operation Pollination and other HSWCD programs including Plant Auction.
- Nov 3-13 2022 Hills Co Fair is providing HSWCD own tent 60 x 40 in size. Rain barrels, poster contest entries, expanded youth plant competition, and displays from numerous conservation entities including HSWCD, USDA, NRCS, Farm Bureau, Hillsborough County EPC and others will be included as part of the display at Fair.
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Harvest Awards. Supervisors encouraged to attend.
- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Plant Auction. Already receiving donations for the auction. Letters sent to the area nurserymen. Expanded donations anticipated from approximately 40 nurseries.
- Update on Julia Mosley Property – Board to be formed officially in November 2022. Hills Co is to manage the property including trees and a home located there. HSWCD will be a part of the Conservation Classroom area on the property.
- Meetings/Activities coming up: FCDEA, Local Working Group Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, FL State Fair Feb 9-20, FL Farm Bureau at State Capital March 8<sup>th</sup>, FL Strawberry Festival March 2-12
- NACD sponsored by Miracle Grow webinar Dec 15, 2022 to feature Hillsborough SWCD
- See Agenda for full listing of programs, projects and activities.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**DINNER SERVED**

### **HCFB - Hillsborough County Farm Bureau**

POPPEL updated on Ag Ventures: 2,600 3<sup>rd</sup> graders attended Ag Venture in fall of 2022. The program is highly successful. Ag Venture will be held again in the spring, April 18-21, 2023.

### **SWFWMD - Southwest Florida Water Management District**

WHEALTON, Sr Env Sci Ag Team, reviewed programs undertaken by SWFWMD over the past year and plans for 2023.

### **SWFWMD**

STEVENS no update at this time.

### **SWFWMD**

GRINER updated on Farms and Mini Farms. Encouraged participation in the program.

### **HSWCD - Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District**

TOMPKINS provided update on Hillsborough County Fair participation. Fair donated 40x60 tent space to HSWCD. Partners included USDA, NRCS, EPC, and Rotary. Several HSWCD contests occurred at fair including rain barrel, Youth Horticulture Show, and Poster Contest. Various activities were also included in the tent space. Doug Holmberg was thanked for his donation of beautiful plants as well as all the other Nurserymen (approx. 40) who donated to the Plant Auction. Plant Auction raised over 8,000 dollars for youth programs. TOMPKINS explained that HSWCD holds 3 different fundraisers for youth programs each year which include: Plant Auction, Strawberry U-Pick and Blueberry U-Pick. TOMPKINS recognized Carl Grooms of Fancy Farms for their generous support by donating their fields to the U-Pick. HSWCD promotes agricultural and conservation programs at the Florida State Fair, Florida Strawberry Festival, Green Fest, Earth Day, County Fair, FL Ag Expo and other events. The District also sponsors and presents the annual Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge and handles administration for FDACS Cost Share Program. Thanked Staff for all their hard work.

### **NRCS - National Resources Conservation Service**

DIAZ-ALVAREZ presented for NRCS. Update on resource concerns that include soil, water quality, air quality, plants, animals, and energy. EQUIP assists farms, ranches and forest production. CSP encourages land stewards to improve conservation. ACEP helps land owners, land trusts, and other entities to protect, restore and enhance wetlands, grassland, and working farms and ranches through conservation easement. DIAZ-ALVAREZ requested that the Local Working Group participants fill out the questionnaire to order to help NRCS prioritize the funding for our area.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

### **Refreshments Served**

Note: Priority results from the surveys were:

1<sup>st</sup>: Seasonal High Tunnels

2<sup>nd</sup>: Urban Agriculture

3<sup>rd</sup>: Water Quality