

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 @ 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 13, 2022 Board Meeting – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Sonja Brookins*
NRCS District/Area /State Report – *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, District Conservationist and Walter Albarran, Area Conservationist (review of NRCS office plans)*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager (Via Zoom)*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Jeff Whealton, Ken Griner, Thomas Stevens (all on zoom)*
Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman Kathy Eckdahl*

BUSINESS

- SB 1078 / Update on conservation district legislation passed by the Florida House and Senate during 2022 session.
 - * Discussion on qualifying for District Supervisors between June 13 and 11:50 am, June 17, 2022.
 - * Discussion regarding participation with Palm Beach SWCD regarding contracting with lobbyist.
- Update on EPA Proposal to remove strawberries from the Thiram (currently an approved fungicide) label effective this upcoming season.
- Dues
 - * 2022 AFCD dues - \$350., plus \$150. for Ellis Putnal fund (youth program awards) = \$500.00
 - * NACD dues - \$800.00
- AFCD – Area 4 meeting scheduled for June 18, 2022 at Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road.
 - * Meeting start time changed to 10:00am to accommodate Supervisors traveling extended distances.
 - * Districts invited to make presentations on their programs, projects and activities.
 - * Continental breakfast and full lunch provided by HSWCD.
 - * Gift bags provided to all participants by HSWCD.
 - * Tour canceled due to low number of potential participants.
- Education Programs
 - * Ag Venture – HSWCD participated in Spring 2022 Ag Venture at Florida State Fairgrounds on April 19, 21, and 22 with a program on pollinators for 320 third grade students. HSWCD will participate in Fall Ag Venture once schedule is determined.
 - * Poster Contest – 2022 NACD contest theme “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life”. District winning posters will compete at Area meeting on June 18, 2022.

*Summer Poster Contest- HSWCD summer contest will be held from June 10- September 10, 2022 with the theme; "Our Perfect Pollinators"- Hillsborough County Fair has committed to same arrangement (free ticket and display for all posters) as previously provided.

* Envirothon and Land Judging – Current plans are for both competitions to return for 2022 – 2023 school year (provided no further COVID restriction are implemented). Plans to bring back land judging competition for 2022-2023 school year.

➤ Director's Report, review of Overall Programs-Betty Jo Tompkins

*Hillsborough 100 Kickoff Luncheon held April 27, 2022 with approximately 140 participants at The Regent. Awards presented: were Outstanding Supporter of the Year: Duggal and Sons Farm: The Holt Family; 2022 Outstanding Volunteer Family: The Humphreys Family; Special Award: Judi Whitson, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Farm Bureau; Outstanding Project of the Year: Fancy Farms; Outstanding Cooperating Partner – Florida State Fair; Outstanding Student Conservationist: Katherine "Katie" Tyson. In addition, Katie was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from HSWCD. The luncheon also represented the kickoff of "operation Pollination".

*Operation Pollination - program to run from April 2022 to April 2024. Currently signing up businesses, churches, civic clubs, educational institutions, families, governmental entities. Individuals and youth groups, to conduct pollinator activities with a goal of 100 projects. Presented program to FCDEA mid-year statewide Conference – May 13, 2022 in Ocala and exhibit at Rotary District 6890 Conference May 13-15 in Lakeland. Tompkins, Katie Tyson and Mike Meegan (Rotary) have been named Ambassadors for Operation Pollination (of 60 worldwide). Receiving very positive responses thus far.

*Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid – 2022 tabloid, which is 28 full color pages, published on Sunday, April 24 in the Tampa Bay Times, in TBT April 27 and will be distributed throughout the year at fairs and festivals. Total cost of tabloid to HSWCD was \$400.00 with all other costs being covered through advertising.

*Spring Ag Tour – Supervisors Brookins and Brooks participated in the Spring Ag Tour, Friday, April 22, 2022. Tompkins could not participate due to Ag Venture presentation.

*Clean Air Fair – HSWCD exhibited at the May 5, 2022 Clean Air Fair in downtown Tampa sponsored by Hillsborough Environmental Protection Agency.

*FCDEA -Participated in monthly meetings and special projects.

*AFCD – Quarterly meeting – July 1, 2022. Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel; AFCD Annual Meeting September 7-9, 2022 – Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel – Gainesville.

*NACD Summer Meeting and SE Meeting – July 15-19, 2022 – San Juan, Puerto Rico, Discussion on potential participation by HSWCD Supervisors.

*GS Fest – HSWCD scheduled to participate for 2022 GZS Fest, September 24 at Florida State Fair Grounds.

*Florida Ag Expo – November 2, 2022 – Secured complimentary exhibit space (booth 31) for event.

*Hillsborough County Fair – Fair to provide HSWCD with an entire tent to use for all HSWCD activities, including expanded youth plant show, expanded rain barrel contest, Great Plant Auction. poster exhibit. etc.

See attachments for Overall HSWCD participation at Fair: rain barrel competition, youth plant show. Also participated in Fair Board meetings and events.

***Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation-Participated in Board meetings, events. etc.**

***Center Place Board -participated in Board meetings, events, etc.**

***Rotary Brandon Global ECO and Rotary ESRAG-Presented information on HSWCD programs, projects and activities and participated in programs with Rodale Institute, Rotary International Convention virtual ESRAG and pollinator programs, Monarch Sister Schools, etc.**

***Other-Greater Plant City Chamber. Greater Brandon Chamber, Greater Riverview Chamber, Webinar with NACD President Crowder, NACD Urban webinar on Soil Health; FDACS Webinar, Tampa Bay Beekeepers,**

- **Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements**
- **Next Board Meeting – 4:30 pm – June 8, 2022**
- **Adjournment**
- **Dinner**