

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

Supervisors in Attendance

Mark Proctor, Chair, Supervisor
Ryan Gill– Vice Chair, Supervisor
Chris McCullough – Supervisor(zoom)
Myke Morris- Treasurer, Supervisor
Adam Young - Supervisor

Others in Attendance

Betty Jo Tompkins-HSWCD Executive Director
Linda Chion-HSWCD/PT Computer graphics
Kathy Eckdahl-HSWCD Adm Asst III to Director
Sacha Dyson- representative for Greg Hearing
interim Counsel for HSWCD Board
Walter Albarran - NRCS Asst State Conservationist
(Zoom)
MarDee Buchman-
Aide to Congressman Vern Buchanan CD 16
Melissa Jackson - attendee

Call to Order

PROCTOR, chair, called meeting to order at 3:25 pm.

MINUTES

Minutes of April 19, 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. On page 6 under Other Business, third bullet point corrected to read: MORRIS moved to request definitive opinion from the FL Attorney General. MORRIS moved for approval of April 19, 2023 board meeting minutes. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MORRIS, treasurer, reviewed the financials.

• General bank account	\$2,598.04	Balance as of April 28, 2023
• Hillsborough 100 account	\$ 7,250.46	Balance as of April 28, 2023
• Mini-Farms account	\$ 27,896.53	Balance as of April 28, 2023
• Envirothon	\$ 415.70	Balance as of April 28, 2023

GILL, MORRIS, SACHA, and TOMPKINS commented. YOUNG moved to accept and file for audit the financial report for April 28, 2023. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Update from Interim Legal Council Representing Greg Hearing

DYSON reported on the outside investigations related to County HR issues. DYSON related a summary of the report which substantiated: TOMPKINS has a lack of structure, lack of process, and lack of organization. GILL, TOMPKINS, YOUNG, and MORRIS commented.

GILL moved to terminate the Executive Directors contract with cause. DYSON, GILL, TOMPKINS commented. MORRIS moved to have a 10 minute recess. YOUNG seconded. Motion passed. PROCTOR recessed the meeting. After 10 minutes, PROCTOR called the meeting out of recess. McCULLOUGH moved to amend the motion to terminate the Executive

Director's contract to without cause. YOUNG seconded. DYSON, TOMPKINS, MORRIS, commented. Motion passed. GILL moved to terminate the Executive Director's contract without cause. MORRIS, YOUNG, TOMPKINS, PROCTOR, and GILL commented. Vote Yea:GILL, McCULLOUGH, YOUNG. Vote Nea: MORRIS, and PROCTOR. No abstentions.

INTERIM DIRECTOR

Discussion of next steps to hire a new executive director and who could be appointed as interim director. MORRIS moved to appoint CHION to be the board's interim executive director and for the board to meet as soon as possible. May 24, 2023 @ 3 pm at FSGA. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

FDACS - no report at this time

SWFWMD Farms Program - no report at this time

Hills. Ag. Economic Development -no report at this time

NRCS

ALBARRAN reported NRCS Plant City office has installed new furniture. Electrician has been hired to add more electricity to the office. ALABARRAN explained that the old furniture for the NRCS Plant City office was donated to a local non profit. ALBARRAN encouraged participation in CSP and EQUIP programs.

REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS - none at this time.

BUSINESS

- Update on Area 3 Meeting. MORRIS reported that he was elected as Vice President for Area 3. MORRIS commented on presentation and poster contest winners.
- Update Farm Bill 2023: MORRIS explained the resolution from HSWCD was presented at the Area 3 meeting. Other topics were also discussed. GILL commented.
- Water Restrictions were discussed. GILL, PROCTOR, MORRIS and YOUNG commented. YOUNG reported that SWFMD has a water use permit for Agriculture Farmers to utilize.
- Financials were discussed. GILL moved for the Chair and Treasurer have signature responsibilities until a new Executive Director is on boarded. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed.
- Communications, phone number, zoom accounts were briefly discussed. DYSON commented.
- McCULLOUGH requested that the rest of the agenda be tabled until the next board meeting. Next board meeting will be May 24, 2023 @3 pm at FSGA.

MEETING ADJOURNED

These minutes reviewed and edited by:
Linda Chion, Interim Executive Director, HSWCD - Florida.

Signed: _____ Date _____