

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Supervisors in Attendance

Mark Proctor, Chair
Ryan Gill– Vice Chair
Chris McCullough – Supervisor
Myke Morris- Treasurer
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
Melissa Jackson - HSWCD/PT Community Outreach
Charlene Meeks - AFCD Executive Director
Burlin Findley - AFCD interim President
Simon Bollin - Hills Ag. Economic Development
Leslie Diaz-Alvarez - NRCS District Conservationist
Walter Albarran - NRCS Asst State Conservationist
Ken Griner – SWFWMD Farms Program
Thomas Stevens – SWFWMD Farms Program
Jeff Whealton – SWFWMD Farms Program (zoom)
Matt Warren - FDACS Environmental Manager (zoom)
Lorrie Rossiter - Veranda Group
Amber Norris - 4-H Agent Extension

Call to Order

PROCTOR, chair, called meeting to order at 4:36 pm.

MINUTES

MORRIS moved for approval of Dec 12, 2022 Board meeting minutes. McCullough seconded. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

McCULLOUGH moved that election of officers include position of chair. YOUNG seconded. Motion passed.

McCULLOUGH moved to elect PROCTOR chair. YOUNG seconded. Motion passed.

YOUNG moved to elect GILL vice chair. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed.

McCULLOUGH moved to elect MORRIS treasurer. YOUNG seconded. Motion passed.

MEETINGS

MORRIS moved for the next three meetings to be held at 4 pm on Feb 22, March 22, and April 19 at FSGA subject to availability. GILL seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MORRIS, treasurer, reviewed the financials.

● General bank account	\$3,327.59	Balance as of Dec 30, 2022
● Hillsborough 100 account	\$10,397.98	Balance as of Dec 30, 2022
● Mini-Farms account	\$60,014.43	Balance as of Dec 30, 2022
● Envirothon	\$390.66	Balance as of Dec 30, 2022

YOUNG moved to accept and file for audit the financial report for Dec 30, 2022. MORRIS seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS

FDACS REPORT

WARREN – announced newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture, Wilton Simpson began service in January. A Deputy Director will soon be hired. Deadline for Hurricane Ian disaster relief may be extended. Cost Share for Hillsborough has a total of \$150,000 for this fiscal year from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. TOMPKINS clarified that HSWCD receives a 5% administrative fee for Cost Share. McCULLOUGH requested that WARREN provide 3 years of financial records to see what and where Cost Share monies were utilized.

SWFWMD - Farms Program

WHEALTON reported that Mobil Irrigation Lab (MIL) is going to be utilized once more to provide grower support.

SWFWMD- Farms Program

STEVENS - nothing to report at this time.

SWFWMD- Farms Program

GRINER - provided a summary of the mini farms program featuring alternative water supply program. SWFWMD works within 16 different countries and encourages participation in their programs which include soil moisture probes, weather stations, and many other projects.

AGRIBUSINESS REPORT

BOLLIN reported that the hops program is continuing, including working with FDACS for grants for additional genetic research on hops. Ag Economic Redevelopment Council to provide BOCC a list of their priorities. A Military Agricultural Tour is planned for March 24, 2023. To date a total of 65 veterans have successfully gone through this program with a job offer rate of 100%.

NRCS REPORT

DIAZ-ALVAREZ – reported that NRCS continues to promote conservation practices with Hillsborough ranked 1st in berry production. EQUIP has 44 applications. Hurricane Ian emergency funds has 34 applications. Each office now assigned its own funding pool. ALBARRAN reported that workshops/presentations are available for producers and ranchers. He noted that the Local Working Group helps to prioritize funding for local producers/ranchers needs and that this was a record year for financial assistance. He announced a new employee position of NRCS Agricultural Engineer.

4-H AG EXTENSION

NORRIS - new 4-H Extension Agent Amber Morris was introduced. NORRIS reported that she is looking forward to working with the Board and that 376 students are involved in 13 4-H clubs in Hillsborough County. Her goal is to increase both student involvement and the number of 4-H clubs in our area.

AFCD

FINDLEY - AFCD Interim State President Burlin Findley reported he has been a Supervisor for over 28 years and encouraged participation in AFCD annual meeting in Feb. He's visiting HSWCD and other boards across the state prior to a new AFCD board being elected at this meeting, where each local board has 1 vote.

MEEKS - reported that training will be made available at the State AFCD meeting and will include ethics, sunshine law, and social media. Various other courses will also be presented.

REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS

McCULLOUGH proposed an additional staff technician position to reach out to producers/ranchers to be supported by Hillsborough County and NRCS as a cost share position. TOMPKINS noted that she would request on behalf of the Board that additional position be included in the upcoming budget cycle. ALBARRAN welcomed the new position. Description will be generated by HSWCD with input from NRCS.

McCULLOUGH moved to request a new technician employee position. MORRIS seconded. Motion passed.

BUSINESS

- Year in Review. TOMPKINS presented 2022 Year in Review to Board.
- Update on Legislative issues:
 - Local bill to be requested to redistrict HSWCD geographic boundaries to bring them into compliance with intent of SB 1078.
 - Potential legislation regarding hostile foreign entities being prevented from buying land in Florida is being developed and followed.
- March 8, 2023 - HSWCD to participate in Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol (Tallahassee)
- Supervisors to participate in Hillsborough Legislative Delegation meeting on Feb 1, 2023 at USF.
- Feb 6-8, 2023 Supervisors and staff to participate in AFCD State Meeting in Gainesville

- Education Programs
 - Spring Ag Venture will be held April 18-21, 2023. HSWCD will participate.
 - NACD poster contest is underway with the theme “One Water”
 - Mini grants - applications open for 2023
 - Scholarship program - applications open for 2023 including Michael Hepburn and Roy Gene Davis scholarships for high school juniors and seniors and college freshman.
 - Land Judging - HSWCD will offer a training opportunity
 - Mailings to ag teachers, 4-H, scouts, science and art teachers to inform them on the various contests, mini-grants, and scholarships.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Reviewed Supervisor Checklist for Jan. - March 2023.
- April 16 - May 7, 2023 Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- NACD Urban and Community Grants. TOMPKINS requested a motion to move forward with proposed grant application. MORRIS moved that a grant application for an NACD Urban and Community grant be developed. McCULLOUGH seconded. Motion passed.
- Update on Julia Mosley Property – PROCTOR reported that this site was the first designated as a National Historic site in Brandon, FL. TOMPKINS clarified HSWCD does not financially support this property and therefore there is no conflict of interest.
- Meetings/Activities coming up: Feb 22, March 22, and April 19 HSWCD Board meeting dates at FSGA, FL State Fair Feb 9-20, FL Farm Bureau at State Capital March 7th, FL Strawberry Festival March 2-12
- See Agenda for full listing of programs, projects and activities.

MEETING ADJOURNED

DINNER SERVED