

Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

Aug 31, 2022

Florida Strawberry Growers Association, Dover, FL

Supervisors in Attendance

Andrew Brooks, Acting Chair
Sonja Brookins - Treasurer
Karen Cox Jaroch - Supervisor
Mark Proctor - Supervisor

Others in Attendance

Betty Jo Tompkins - HSWCD Executive Director
Linda Chion - HSWCD/PT Computer graphics
Simon Bollin - Hills Ag. Economic Development
Ken Griner - SWFWMD
Thomas Stevens - SWFWMD
Matt Warren - FDACS
Chaz La Riche - SWFWMD
Melissa Jackson - Attendee
Kim O'Connor - Attendee
Starr Brookins - Attendee

Call to Order (to receive reports)

Mark Proctor, supervisor, called meeting to order at 4:55 pm in order to take reports.

NRCS REPORT

DIAZ-ALVAREZ - absent due to COVID symptoms. Sent August's 2022 report to TOMPKINS. Board will review the updated report at the next HSWCD meeting on October 12, 2022.

FDACS REPORT

WARREN reported Cost Share is done for the year. They are beginning the new fiscal year in September.

SWFWMD

GRINER gave his report on the Farms Group. Working on Cost Share and Mini Farms. Completed many projects. Fiscal year ends in Sept. Additional funding is coming. Still very busy with many projects. Encouraged more participants for Cost Share and Mini-Farms. LARICHE had nothing to report at this time.

AGRIBUSINESS REPORT

BOLLIN reported about farm building permits and farm work permits. Working with farmers that have housing issues. Hops project updated. Lights went off last week. Lighting schedule has been modified for the fall. Plants were going into shock. Looking for solutions for the Fall/Spring with regards to the roots. Meeting with Ag companies that are looking to move to Hills. Co. Biofuel may be one of the products. A Trade Delegation (Italian Companies) of 12 companies

will be coming to meet with BOLLIN. FFEA suggested this to BOLLIN and handled through the Houston Consulate.

Official Call to Order

BROOKS, acting Chair, called the Board meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

MINUTES

PROCTOR moved for approval of June 8, 2022 board meeting minutes. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BROOKINS, treasurer, reviewed the financials.

- General bank account \$4,471.69. Balance as of Aug 28, 2022
- Hillsborough 100 account \$6,084.85 Balance as of Aug 28, 2022
- Mini-Farms account \$35,491.08 Balance as of Aug 28, 2022

PROCTOR moved to accept the financial report for Aug 28, 2022. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

REQUEST FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

BUSINESS

Election of Chair to fill balance of term Aug 31, 2022 - December 2022. Current Chair ECKDAHL accepted a position with the Soil and Water Board and resigned as the Chair. PROCTOR moved for BROOKS to be Chair of the Board. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

Election of Supervisor to fill balance of term Aug 31, 2022 - December 2022. TOMPKINS clarified that this seat should not be filled by any candidates currently running for a seat on the board. This is a temporary seat to fill in. JACKSON was going to run but the new FL State law prohibits her from running for the seat. PROCTOR moved for JACKSON to serve on the board. JAROCH second. Motion passed.

Election of Vice Chair

PROCTOR moved for BROOKINS to serve as Vice Chair. JAROCH second. Motion passed.

Election of Treasurer

PROCTOR moved for JACKSON to serve as treasurer. BROOKINS second. Motion passed.

BROOKS questioned about PROCTOR serving as Chair moving forward in January 2023. TOMPKINS clarified the rules. The voting would be completed in December 2022 for the next two year cycle.

BOARD RESPONSE TO SB 1078

TOMPKINS reported that no decisions about SB 1078 were made until or if the Governor signed the bill. Governor signed the bill and now she had less than 3 days to find new board candidates to run for office. The majority of current duly elected Board Supervisors could not run due to SB 1078 being passed. The Board has been elected based on residency in Hillsborough Co. She spoke with the Supervisor of Elections about SB 1078. Supervisor of Elections confirmed that distribution as far as location is not relevant for the 2022 election. A district could be abolished if there were less than 5 duly elected members for the board. A June meeting was held.

TOMPKINS then reported about the Rule Making Workshop held on Aug 17, 2022. Several issues were discovered in this situation. She clarified that the HSWCD has only 21 days to respond to the new district maps for supervisors for Hillsborough Co. If the board does not respond within 21 days, we lose the right to challenge. The Property Appraiser office was key in getting the maps for our response. The response has all backup materials to support what will be submitted for the final report. 49 counties will be using Co Commission maps, only Hills Co will use School Board District map, and 6 counties using FREAC divided equally by geographic land mass. None of the counties are to be based on population. The districts are to be 5 equal geographic entities. Active Ag was not a part of the process, only 5 equal districts. TOMPKINS read the Comments and Questions that addressed 3 main issues that included:

- Hills. Co would be the only county in FL that would use School Board Districts as the sub district for our Board which is based on population
- Consideration must be made as to distribution of ag entities within the county
- Board should be able to submit potential sub district boundary map for consideration

TOMPKINS asked the Board for a motion to take response to the AFCD Quarterly Meeting and to contact our Legislative Delegation. BOLLIN commented that the County Commission and the School Board boundaries are the same boundaries. Zone Ag does not mean Agriculture business is conducted on that property. TOMPKINS commented that the Co. Commission Districts may not meet the 20% standard. Palm Beach Co is also concerned about the boundaries given to their district as well.

PROCTOR made a motion to present the final version of our response to Legislative Delegation only. BROOKINS seconded. Motion passed.

UPDATES

- Quarterly Meeting held July 1 2022. Resolution to dissolve the state AFCD presented was reviewed. Followed all the rules with regards to the resolution. This resolution was passed unanimously June 18, 2022 at the AFCD Area 4 meeting. At the quarterly meeting were guest speakers, and the Reports of Area Meeting were held. State meeting scheduled for Sept was canceled and moved to Jan. 2023.
- NACD meeting in Puerto Rico was held. BROOKS, BROOKINS and TOMPKINS attended. Hills Co was the only county from FL to attend.

- Update on EPA proposal on Thiram (fungicide for FL Strawberry growers). EPA is going to reconsider the use of the fungicide. Updated report at end of the year. Open up for comments at that time.
 - Ag Venture at State Fair.Home School Day at Fair Oct 31st..
 - Spring Ag Venture will be in April.
 - Poster Contest winners will be at the Board meeting in Oct to be recognized.
 - Different Poster contest will be held throughout the year
- Environthon including land judging will be held in March 2023.

BROOKINS motion to put our name in to host the State Land Judging. PROCTOR second. Motion passed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Grant received from the City of Tampa. Received 30,000 dollars for Youth Programs in School Gardens
- Sept 24 Girl Scout Festival (GS Fest). Pay for their fees.
- Oct 11 Farm Bureau dinner
- Oct 13th Lennard School House dedication at the Hillsborough Co Fairgrounds
- Hills Co Fair rented us our own tent 60 x 30 in size. Rain barrels, poster display, expanded youth plant display, poster contest.
- Nov 13th is the.Plant Auction. Already receiving donations for the auction. Letters sent out to the nurserymen. Expanded donations to include lawn equipment, garden, lights etc.
- Oct 22 is Fair Work Day, Breakfast to be served
- Activities Coming Up: Harvest Awards, FL Ag Exp, Operation Pollination, Hills 100,
- Participated in FCDEA monthly meetings, survey/other activities, NACD Summer Meeting, SE Meeting, held various meetings with numerous officials.
- Meetings held:
 - FCDEA, Local Working Group, NACD, FL State Fair, Coalition of Comm. Garden, Hills Co 4H, FL Strawberry Festival
- Dec 15 Webinar NACD sponsored by Miracle-Gro. HSWCD will be featured. This is to help other water boards engage in fairs and festivals.

BROOKS suggested the Board should reach out to Oystermen, Commercial Fisherman, Tropical Fisheries, and maybe other commercial fisherman that trade into Tampa Bay.

MEETING ADJOURNED

DINNER SERVED