

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 @ 4:00 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 January 18, 2023 Board Meeting – *Chairman Mark Proctor*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Myke Morris*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Jeff Whealton, Ken Griner, Thomas Stevens, Chaz LaRiche*
Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
NRCS District/Area/State Report – *Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, District Conservationist and Walter Albarran, Area Conservationist*
Introduction of Stephanie Conrad, *President, Youth Leaders in Production Agriculture-*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman, Mark Proctor*

BUSINESS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT- *Betty Jo Tompkins*

- Update on State Legislative Issues: Director Tompkins Continuing work with Hillsborough Delegation members to craft a local bill to correct deficiency in SB 1078 requiring Hills. Co. to use unequal school board geographic districts for HSWCD Supervisor seats; Proctor, Morris and Tompkins participated in Hillsborough Legislative Delegation meeting February 1, 2023 at USF; 2023 legislative session opens March 7, 2023, with Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol on March 8, 2023. HSWCD will participate in breakfast, briefings, legislative meetings and will have tent with Hillsborough food samples at the Taste of Florida Also following potential legislation prohibiting the purchase of Florida agricultural lands by hostile foreign entities. Review which Supervisors will be participating in Farm Bureau Day to secure hotel, etc.
- Federal Legislation – NACD 2023 Fly-in scheduled for March 22 – 23 in Washington, DC. Purpose: To connect with federal legislative delegation members to promote additional conservation funding in the upcoming Farm Bill, as well as array of other Federal Issues: Review which Supervisors will be participating to secure flights, hotel, etc.
- Action Item – Board meeting scheduled for March 22, 2023 would have to be changed. Strawberry Growers location is available on March 29, 2023.
- Budget - request for 2023 – 2024 being worked on, to include agricultural technician position.
- Action Items – 1) By McCullough. Request to hold a budget workshop for Supervisors. 2) By Proctor. Request to hold an overall informational workshop to review HSWCD programs. 3) By Tompkins. To hold a comprehensive workshop to include budget, programs and development of long range plan.
- Action Items -Review of HSWCD Upcoming Programs, Projects and Activities:
 - Florida Strawberry Festival – March 2 – 12. 2023-HSWCD Exhibit in Grimes Building; March 6, 2023 – Farm Credit Breakfast; March 6, 2023 – Grand Parade Luncheon
 - March 2023 – HSWCD Strawberry U-Pick to benefit youth programs, Date TBD.
 - March 25 -26, 2023 – Greenfest – Tampa

- April 12, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon – The Regen
 - April 16 – May 6,, 2023- Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – Multiple programs, projects and activities throughout Tampa Bay, involving businesses, churches, educational institutions, governmental entities, schools, youth groups and others executing road and river clean-ups; recycling of paper, plastics and electronics, planting of butterfly and other pollinator gardens; community and school gardens and a myriad of other programs, projects and activities.
 - April 16, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid in Tampa Bay Times,; also in TBT and distributed at fairs and festivals throughout the year.
 - April 18 – 21, 2023 – Spring AgVenture – “Bees, Bats, Birds and Butterflies, Our Perfect Pollinators”
 - May 4, 2023- EPC Clean Air Fair - Tampa
- Update on NACD National Meeting – February 12 – 15, .2023 –New Orleans. Attended by Proctor and Tompkins. Tompkins gave presentation on “Successfully Funding Districts Through Government, Grants, Events and Activities” to overflow audience of 100+ attendees (largest breakout of conference).
 - Update on AFCD Annual Meeting – February 6 – 8, 2023 - Attended by Proctor, Gill, Morris, Tompkins.
 - Review of Florida State Fair – February 9 – 20, 2023 – Exhibit in Ag Hall of Fame; served samples at Fresh From Florida Breakfast; Governor’s Luncheon, Ag Hall of Fame Dinner and Champion of Champions dinner.
 - Mini-Grants – Applications received for 2023 mini-grant awards from 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth for \$250.00 each for youth conservation programs, projects, and activities. Program open to K-12 students (minimum 4 students with 1 adult) enrolled in public, private, parochial, charter, home or virtual school programs in Hillsborough County, including school classes, youth organizations and church groups.
 - Scholarship Program – Applications open for the Michael Hepburn Memorial Scholarship and Roy Gene Davis scholarship (\$1,000. each). Eligible students must be junior or senior in high school or first year post secondary education during 2022 – 2023 school year and planning to pursue a career in agriculture, conservation or environmental sciences.
 - Update on joint grant with City of Tampa, Coalition of Community Gardens and HSWCD.
 - Update on NACD Urban and Community Grant application.
 - Review of office relocation, donation of refrigerator and freezer to Miracles Children’s Home; requests for Supervisor laptops; completion of office move.
 - Other: ITF article on HSWCD Board; FCDEA – Participated in monthly meetings, etc.;Coalition of Community Gardens – Continued participation; Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation – Participated in Board meetings, strawberry U-pick, etc.; Hillsborough County Fair Board; Center Place Board and Community Roundtable Board - participated in Board meetings, events, etc.; Rotary Brandon Global ECO and Rotary ESRAG – Participated in numerous conservation programs; Greater Plant City Chamber Ag Com, Greater Riverview Chamber, Tampa Bay Beekeepers
 - Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements
 - Next Board Meeting – To be set.
 - Adjournment
 - Dinner

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- * February 20, 2023 – 4:00 pm - HSWCD Board Meeting, Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road, Dover
- * March 2 -12, 2023 – Florida Strawberry Festival – HSWCD Exhibit – Plant City
- * March 6, 2023 – Farm Credit Breakfast and Grand Parade Luncheon
- * March 7 – May 5, 2023 – 2023 Florida Legislative Session
- * March 8, 2023 – Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol - day and evening events.
- * March 22 – 23, 2023 – NACD Legislative Fly-in
- * March 25 -26, 2023 – GreenFest 2023 – HSWCD exhibit – Tampa
- * April 12, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon
- * April 16 – May 6, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- * April 18 – 21. 2023 – Spring AgVenture / HSWCD Presenter – Florida State Fairgrounds
- * April 22 – Earth Day
- * April 30 – May 7, 2023 – National Soil Stewardship Week
- * May 4, 2023 – EPC Clean Air Fair -/ HSWCD Exhibit – Tampa



Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District....Leading for Tomorrow! Betty Jo Tompkins