

**HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES**

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting / December 29, 2021 / 4:00pm / Via Zoom

SUPERVISORS IN ATTENDANCE

Kathy Eckdahl — Chair
Andrew Brooks — Vice Chair (4:16 p.m.)
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

WELCOME

Meeting starts at 4:00 pm. All supervisors in attendance after Andrew Brooks signs in at 4:16 p.m.

LETTER TO LEGISLATORS

Director Tompkins reviewed draft of a letter to be sent to members of House and Senate committees hearing the two bills that would abolish soil and water conservation districts statewide (HB 783 and SB 1078). If approved by the HSWCD board, Tompkins reported a similar correspondence would be sent to the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation. The goal is to abolish the legislation.

Proctor moved to authorize the letter as presented and to authorize Tompkins Jo to draft a similar letter for the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation.

Seconded by Brookins.

Approved 4-0 (Brooks not yet in attendance)

Tompkins requested supervisors consider other groups to send the letter to. Brookins recommended the Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee.

Arrangements discussed for getting all five supervisors to sign each of the letters to be sent, along with a copy of the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid. Proctor noted signatures need to be in blue, not black ink. Tompkins said the letters for signing should be ready within a week and asked the supervisors to consider who they might want to receive the letter, based on their relationships with various groups and legislators.

Tompkins reported she is working to set up meetings with legislators and that letters, along with tabloids, will be hand-delivered/dropped off or sent via mail to district offices. Among the groups noted were the Democratic Caucus of Florida (Brookins); Florida Strawberry Growers Association, Farm Bureau, Rotary, Rotary Environmental Sustainability Action Group, TREE Inc., Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Property Appraiser Bob Enriquez, Plant City Council, Kiwanis.

RESOLUTION FOR NACD GRANT

A resolution is needed for the HSWCD application for an NACD Urban and Community Grant. Tompkins said there is a slim chance of getting the grant given that HSWCD previously received a previous such grant for \$50,000, which is the maximum amount available under this grant offering. It's more difficult to earn if you've been selected before and you have more resources than other districts, Tompkins said, adding that it nevertheless is worth the effort to apply.

Motion to sign the resolution moved by Proctor.

Brookins seconded

Approved unanimously, 5-0.

STATE AUDIT

The audit for 2019-20 has been completed by Hamilton and Associates and was wired to Tallahassee yesterday. Board reviewed the audit (see attached), which shows assets in the plus from the previous year in the amount of \$82,698. Tompkins said it is a clean audit, with no errors or omissions, and no deficiencies shown.

Brookins moves to accept the audit as presented.

Proctor seconded.

Approved unanimously.

MURAL FOR STATE FAIR

A student artist's rendering of the mural for the HSWCD exhibit area at the 2022 Florida State Fair was presented by Tompkins, who indicated a few minor changes will be necessary. She said she met the student through a woman at the longleaf tree-planting earlier this year. Her nephew, who is the artist, plans to study graphic design in college. He hails from Miami but was in Hillsborough County to visit his aunt. He spent seven hours on the mural design at the Brandon HSWCD office to create the piece. The work he did satisfies a requirement for his Boy Scouts Eagle Scout project, in the area of conservation. The mural depicts "Bees, Bats, Birds and Butterflies. Our Perfect Pollinators" Tompkins reviewed with supervisors the intent of the art work, to be presented across 24 feet with six, 4-by-8 panels. The artist will get a letter from HSWCD for his Eagle Scout project. Tompkins said it's a great example of engaging kids who in turn will engage with the district.