

HILLSBOROUGH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors * District Regular Meeting Wednesday, August 15, 2018 4:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 4:09 PM by Chairman Mark Proctor.

Supervisors in attendance:

Mark Proctor, Chair
Michael Hepburn, Treasurer
Susan Dumke

Others in Attendance:

Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD, Executive Director
Jennifer Gray, HSWCD, Administrative Services Coordinator
Erik Moretuzzo, FDACS/HSWCD, Ag Conservation Technician
Lisa Harper, NRCS, District Conservationist
Lisa Strange, FDACS Environmental Specialist III

INTRODUCE MEMBER(S) OF THE PUBLIC

Chairman requested members and guests introduce themselves and offer public comment.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

Sup. Hepburn moved approval of June 13, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.
Motion 2nd by Sup. Dumke. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report presented by Sup. Hepburn as follows:

- Regular account beginning balance of \$8,301.36 and ending balance of \$17,250.04
- Mini-Farm account beginning balance of \$30,139.64 and ending balance of \$18,048.77
- Petty Cash account beginning balance of \$70.76 and ending balance of \$29.49
- Hillsborough 100 account beginning balance of \$1,649.71 and ending balance of \$1,275.03

Motion from Sup. Dumke to accept Treasurer's Report to file for audit.

Motion 2nd by Sup. Hepburn. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS REPORT

Lisa Harper reported NRCS has 11 EQIP contracts with an estimated total of 150k. Lisa assisted Polk County and has organized the Plant City office in preparation of her move to a new NRCS position in California. Dan Oliver will be acting District Conservationist until a new District Conservationist can be hired.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Simon Bollin reported the hops research trial has been harvested. Breweries which donated \$75,000 to the project (Three Daughters Brewery, Cigar City Brewery and Coppertail Brewery) have all received hops to brew with and a potential tasting event is in development. Cascade is yielding best at around 2,000 lbs an acre. Nugget and others are also doing well. LED lights adding on average 5 hours of extra light per day have increased yields six times greater than previous average and has permitted harvesting twice a year. USDA station in Fort Pierce doing research on hops as well, using intermittent light. Next harvest will be in December. Grant to expand the Veteran Ag Internship in partnership with Gulf Coast Research Station was submitted to and approved by Veterans Florida out of Tallahassee. Part of the grant funds will be used for a marketing and a part time Grant Manager housed out of the Hillsborough County Extension Office. Current contributors to the program are Gulf Coast Research Station, Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, and North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy. Anticipated contributors include Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade, Southwest Florida Research Center in Immokalee and Tropical Aquaculture Lab in Ruskin. The REC will pay an hourly wage to the veteran and the grant will provide a \$500 a month stipend. Veterans assignments will be 6 months in which 4 week rotations will be done with each research group, followed by a 3 month internship with a local farm or agribusiness, which will optimistically lead to a job offer. Bollin is reaching out to the Veterans Administration, Veterans Florida and other sources to raise awareness of the internship program.

SWFWMD

Lisa Strange reported FARMS program money will be available in October 2018. Mini Farm projects have increased to 8k per project maximum.

FDACS

Lisa Strange reported FDACS focus is on enrollment in Alafia and Hillsborough BMAP areas. Cost share funds are expected to be available next week to start applications.

REQUEST FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

BUSINESS:

- A. Update on Education Programs- Betty Jo Tompkins gave an update on programs: Land Judging, Envirothon, Poster Contest and Speech Contest. Summer Poster Contest deadline has passed and Supervisors will be judging entries after meeting. Awards will be given and winners recognized at the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon. Posters are to be displayed at the Hillsborough County Fair. Application period is closed for Education Outreach position, Betty Jo Tompkins is meeting with civil service to review applications.
- B. Update on Employee Advisory Committee- Jennifer Gray reported Civil Service Act and Intern Classification suggestions have been approved by the Employee Advisory Committee and submitted to Civil Service Board for review. Innovation and Trends Committee will distribute a survey.
- C. Update on BMP Program- Erik Moretuzzo's update included producer visits in Pasco, Hernando, Hillsborough and Citrus Counties. Enrollment packages in progress. Attended the Cattlemen's Convention in Orlando, FDACS Staff Meeting in Dover and Local Working Group Meeting at the Florida Strawberry Growers Association. Currently have 3 new cow/calf enrollments and 4 new BAC enrollments. Self-verification is underway for all new enrollments.
- D. Directors Report- Director Tompkins reported on plans for the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon, slated for noon, October 24, 2018 at The Regent in Brandon/Riverview. A "Hillsborough Harvested, Fresh From Florida" meal is planned. Awards will be presented for 2018 Challenge project winners, as well as student winners in HSWCD youth competitions. Gift bags will be presented to all participants. Lipman Family Farms has agreed to sponsor the 2019 H 100 Garden Challenge. Participants include ag departments, science clubs and ese programs. Meeting held with Hillsborough County Extension Service Director Stephen Gran, with commitment from Extension to play a larger role in 2019 Challenge. Challenge dates will be April 20 – May 5, 2019. Litigation continues. Director Tompkins participated in deposition. Local Working Group meeting held on July 25th, at the Florida Strawberry Growers Association with over 40 in attendance. A small number of protestors participated and were given opportunity to speak. Numerous speakers representing major agricultural entities and ideas presented. NACD SE Sumer Meeting held in Williamsburg, Va. August 2-8, 2018. Director Tompkins presented program on Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge to the NACD National Communications Committee on August 4. Reviewed a number of changes coming in USDA programs, projects and activities, including in NRCS and FSA. Changes are anticipated as well in NACD. Update presented on AFCD annual meeting, August 23 – 25, 2018 at the Ocala Hilton. Meeting will include live and silent Auction presented by FCDEA. Poster contest for "Our Tremendous Trees" completed, with judging following today's meeting. Other activities included participation in Florida Federation of Fairs Summer Workshop at Florida Strawberry Festival; candidate forum for Commissioner of Agriculture; UF 4-H Hall of Fame Dinner; Tampa Bay Beekeepers; Brandon, Plant City and Riverview Chambers; Hillsborough 4-H Foundation. Published first issue of "Bee Informed". New UF Bee Lab to open in Gainesville. Other upcoming events: October 10 – HSWCD Board Meeting; October 11 – Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Banquet; October 18 – Harvest Awards and October 24 – Hillsborough 100 Kickoff Luncheon.
- E. Affirmation of Executive Directors Contract– Sup Proctor opened the floor to questions. No questions. Sup Hepburn motioned to affirm Executive Director Betty Jo Tompkins current contract. Motion 2nd by Dumke. Motion passed unanimously.
- F. Election of new HSWCD Board Vice Chair- Sup. Hepburn moved to nominate Sup. Dumke as Vice Chair. Motion 2nd by Sup. Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. Interviews for replacement Supervisor District 2- Open position advertised, two applications received, David Maynard and Mark Proctor. Sup. Proctor relinquished Chair to Sup. Dumke. Sup. Dumke gave Proctor floor to speak. Proctor spoke. David Maynard was not present and therefor did not speak but was listed on the ballot. Sup. Dumke called for nomination. Sup. Dumke nominated Mark Proctor. Sup. Hepburn 2nd nomination. Dumke called for any other nominations. No other nominations. Sup. Dumke called for vote on Mark Proctor nomination. Motion passed unanimously. Betty Jo Tompkins is contacting Supervisor of Elections for proper process for Proctor's resignation from seat 5.
- H. No Public Correspondence.
- I. No further business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm. Dinner served. Summer Poster Contest Judging.