

## Local Working Group Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2019

3pm

Location: Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road, Dover, FL 33527

### Attendees:

Mark Proctor, HSWCD	Betty Jo Tompkins, HSWCD
Debra McGee, HSWCD	Jennifer Gray, HSWCD
Walter Albarran, NRCS	Diana Avellanet-Echevarria, NRCS
Jeff Whealton, SWFWMD	Matt Vinzant, SWFWMD
Mark A. Luchte, SWFWMD	Lisa Strange, FDACS
Simon Bollin, HC ED	Joel Penn, HC EPC
Alicia Whidden, IFAS	Stephen Gran, IFAS
Francisco Rivera, IFAS	Dennis Carlton Jr., HC Farm Bureau
Frank Chilluro	Dennis Carlton Sr., Audubon Ranch
Jenn Landrigan, Bonnie Blue Ranch	Travis Council, Council Growers Inc.
Dale McClellan, M&B Products	Kenny Jackson, Brenner Groves
Brett Uthagrove, Polk SWCD	Ann Bishop, Marion SWCD
Carl Little	Jim Temple
Sonny Hall	Tres Hall

Welcome and introduction by Betty Jo Tompkins, Executive Director, Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District. Introduction of general purpose of Local Working Group given by Walter Albarran, Area Conservationist, National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Further detail and examples of types of issues/concerns handled at the Local Working Group given by Diana Avellanet-Echevarria, District Conservationist, NRCS. Questions received about: 1) Is, or when is, hemp going to be legal to plant? Answer: It is unknown at this point when it will be available for the public to produce, right now production is only allowed by approved government research centers whom have applied and been vetted by the Federal Government. 2) What grants available for farm equipment? Answer: There are many different NRCS funding opportunities available depending on what kind of equipment purchased or improvements made. The best course of action is to set up an appointment to have your project/purchase reviewed.

Guest speakers from different agencies spoke about their programs: Stephen Gran, Director, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Hillsborough County Extension; Simon Bollin, Manager, Hillsborough County Ag Economic Development; Dennis Carlton Jr, President, Hillsborough County Farm Bureau; Lisa Strange, Environmental Specialist III, Office of Ag Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Jeff Whealton, Agricultural Regulation Program Coordinator, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)AGSWM; Mark Luchte, Agricultural Regulation Program Manager, SWFWMD AGSWM; Matt Vinzant, Project Manager 1, FARMS program, SWFWMD; Betty Jo Tompkins spoke about the Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge and requested a vote to support Resolution regarding USDA Suspension of Honey Bee Colonies Survey Funding. Vote outcome was a unanimous Yea, vote passed. See attachment A for the "Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District Local Working Group Resolution regarding USDA Suspension of Honey Bee Colonies Survey Funding".

Walter Albarran and Diana Avellanet-Echevarria asked again if there were any more questions/concerns, there were none. They made it known they were available after the meeting to answer any questions or give any information needed. Mark Proctor, Chairman of the HSWCD gave closing remarks, thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.