

## Chancey, Dawn

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**From:** Gregory, West <West.Gregory@fdacs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:02 PM  
**To:** SoilandWater; Tom Gonzalez (Special Counsel-HSWCD); Walsh, Joe  
**Cc:** Seward, Megan; Ferris, Jessica; Aquino, Meribel; Fitzgerald, Michelle; Parke, Terri  
**Subject:** Re: Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District - District Status

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Hi Mr. Walsh,

Sorry I have not called back. Yes, the attached minutes are sufficient to show a 5 member meeting. Thank you for providing the documents.

### **N. West Gregory**

Director – Office of Agricultural Water Policy  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
(850)617-1704  
[West.gregory@fdacs.gov](mailto:West.gregory@fdacs.gov)

[www.FDACS.gov](http://www.FDACS.gov)

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**From:** SoilandWater <SoilandWater@hcfl.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 11:43 AM  
**To:** Gregory, West <West.Gregory@fdacs.gov>; Tom Gonzalez (Special Counsel-HSWCD) <Thomas.Gonzalez@gray-robinson.com>; Walsh, Joe <WalshJo@hcfl.gov>  
**Cc:** Seward, Megan <Megan.Seward@fdacs.gov>; Ferris, Jessica <Jessica.Ferris@fdacs.gov>; Aquino, Meribel <Meribel.Aquino@fdacs.gov>; Fitzgerald, Michelle <Evelyn.Fitzgerald@fdacs.gov>; Parke, Terri <ParkeT@hcfl.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District - District Status

You don't often get email from soilandwater@hcfl.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning West-

I sent an email earlier today, which assumed the issue of our Board's dissolution was cut and dry. It now appears that it is not so cut and dry.

I still welcome your call, but in short, for the September 2025 board meeting, vacant seat 4 was filled by appointment and that appointee (Casey Runkles) participated in the remainder of the agenda; one other supervisor participated via video conference hub, along with members of the public and partner agency representatives. Casey's paperwork was notarized that afternoon.

Do the attached meeting minutes suffice to address the question or does your office need more?

In closing, Board Supervisors - consistent with Florida Sunshine Laws, please be cautious against discussing Board matters with your fellow Supervisors outside of publicly announced Board meetings. You may communicate with me and your Special Counsel individually to question things that are brought to your attention between meetings.

Respectfully Yours,

Dr. Joe Walsh, Executive Director

Email: [walshjo@HCFL.GOV](mailto:walshjo@HCFL.GOV)

mobile: 813.347.6706

Office Email: [SoilandWater@HCFL.gov](mailto:SoilandWater@HCFL.gov)

Office phone: 813.707.1652



**Hillsborough  
Soil & Water**  
Conservation District  
Florida

**On the web:** [Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District \(hillsboroughswcd.com\)](http://hillsboroughswcd.com)

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**From:** Gregory, West <West.Gregory@fdacs.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 9:24 AM

**To:** SoilandWater <SoilandWater@hcfl.gov>; Walsh, Joe <WalshJo@hcfl.gov>

**Cc:** Seward, Megan <Megan.Seward@fdacs.gov>; Ferris, Jessica <Jessica.Ferris@fdacs.gov>; Aquino, Meribel <Meribel.Aquino@fdacs.gov>; Fitzgerald, Michelle <Evelyn.Fitzgerald@fdacs.gov>

**Subject:** Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District - District Status

**External email:** Use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments or replying to this email.

Dear Ms. Park,

Thank you for your service on the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District. **This letter is an important notice regarding the status of your district.**

As you know, the Florida Legislature amended Florida Statutes in 2022, establishing minimum public meeting requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Failure to meet at least once annually with **all five supervisors** of the governing board results in automatic dissolution of a Soil and

Water Conservation District. As it pertains to Soil and Water Management Districts, once dissolved all assets must be transferred to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

We have been asked to conduct a review of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure they are following the statutory meeting requirement. After a statewide review, we could not find a record of a publicly noticed meeting and corresponding minutes from 2025 indicating all five supervisors of the governing board of the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District met at least once.

**If your District did not meet at least once with all five supervisors of the governing board in 2025, your district was automatically dissolved on January 1, 2026, by operation of law.**

If our records are incorrect, please provide an electronic copy of your meeting notice(s) and corresponding minutes indicating attendance of **all five supervisors** of the governing board by March 20, 2026. You can submit records by email to [west.gregory@FDACS.gov](mailto:west.gregory@FDACS.gov).

Your immediate attention is required to demonstrate that your district has not been automatically dissolved pursuant to section 582.295, Florida Statutes.

Sincerely,

**N. West Gregory**

Director – Office of Agricultural Water Policy  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
(850)617-1704

[West.gregory@fdacs.gov](mailto:West.gregory@fdacs.gov)

[www.FDACS.gov](http://www.FDACS.gov)

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