

Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
FULL BOARD
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 3:30 p.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254



Supervisors in Attendance: Allen Moore, Hunter Anderson, Jennifer Casey, James Cook
Affiliate Members: Tiffany Bess, Antoinette Jones, Joshua Rosenberg
Partners: Geoff Sample (SJRWMD), Al Oliver (NRCS)
General Public: Carrie Davis (Wealth Watchers)

Meeting Called to Order: 3:34 p.m.

1. Silent Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Opening Comments from the Chair – This is our last Full Board meeting of the year and wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
3. Partner Comments
 - a. Al Oliver (USDA NRCS)
 - a. 2020 EQUIP Applications eligible: seasonal high tunnel (5), grazing (2)
 - b. Active contracts: Starratt Timber and Wildlife, Urban Folk Farm (Conservation Stewardship Program)
 - c. Awaiting more direction on new Farm Bill
 - d. Need a signed MOU between DSWCD and NRCS
 - e. Antoinette has helped to get the word out about available cost-shares
 - b. Geoff Sample (SJRWMD)
 - a. Duval County rainfall was 2-3” in November which is average but distribution of rainfall was erratic and varied across the county
 - b. SJRWMD has launched a year-long “Water Less” campaign
 1. Helps raise awareness about water conservation and communicate easy ways to integrate outdoor water conservation into Floridians’ daily lives
 2. There are social media posts available to share
 3. If everyone skipped every other week of irrigation this season, it could save nearly 1 billion gallons of water
 4. Jennifer notes that DSWCD has already shared the campaign on FB and will continue to do so throughout the campaign
4. Secretary’s Report – Jennifer Casey
 - a. Minutes from last meeting

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to approve the Full Board minutes from 11/20/19, Plan of Work Subcommittee minutes from 12/4/19

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

5. Treasurer’s Report – Hunter Anderson
 - a. Will bring a draft of 2020 budget to January Full Board meeting
 - b. November Income: \$5000.00, Expenses: \$201.00, Balance: \$9,435.43 (See attached)
 - c. Hunter will begin providing the monthly report by email for the minutes

MOTION by Hunter Anderson to approve Treasury Report from November 2019

SECOND by Jennifer Casey

IN FAVOR Unanimous

6. Education Program Coordinator Position
 - a. Two applications were received and two candidates were invited for interviews today
 - b. Both candidates withdrew applications during the week (one because he received a new contract with work and the other because she wants to join us as an Envirothon volunteer only and not take a position at this time)
 - c. Jennifer notes that we can try again in the Fall with a new job posting on FB
7. Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant
 - a. Josh worked with Carrie and Jennifer to write the \$50,000 grant and it is on the final round of revisions
 - b. Carrie and Antoinette met with Darryl Joseph at COJ Parks and Recreation
 - a. COJ approves an edible forest at park
 - b. COJ wants a “sanctuary” theme with pavers and a pavilion (city may cover costs)
 - c. Goal is to have park design complete for 2021 Earth Day celebration
 - c. The grant revisions for the budget need to include: More specific budget narrative, contractor fee – per hour rate, more focus on what will be accomplished, Wealth Watchers as fiscal agent needs at least 10%, Josh as member of board (in non-voting capacity) and his company listed as the consultant contractor for the grant means we need letter from the Chair clarifying potential conflict of interest as required by the RFP
 - d. We still need plans for unused \$5000: This could fund a community outreach such as a children’s event (food, games, giveaways, banner) or the use of the park as a host site for a future Envirothon, supplies and mileage could be more specific, consider increasing the amount for promotion
 - e. Note for future – Eastside Environmental Councils owns a vacant lot (was once a community garden and already has irrigation) on 1173 East 3rd St. next to two apartment complexes
 - f. Jennifer presents a draft of the resolution in support of the Urban Permaculture Land and Community Stewardship Project as required in the RFP

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to approve the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant as discussed and amended today with final approval by the Chair before submission

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to approve the Urban Permaculture Land and Community Stewardship Project Resolution

SECOND by Hunter Anderson

IN FAVOR Unanimous

8. Friends of NACD District Grant Program
 - a. Jennifer presents a draft proposal for a Start Farming Mentorship Program (an extension of our successful Start Farming Panel Discussion and Farmers Market)
 - b. As of Fiscal Year 2020, donations through Friends of NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) will support 4 Grants, up to \$2,500 each. Districts are

- encouraged to think creatively in how they can use the funds to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations. Deadline is January 15, 2020.
- c. DSWCD can build on the growth of the Start Farming event and double applications for technical assistance to USDA/NRCS by introducing a new follow-up mentorship program for potential producers that will provide a next step in pursuing a farming endeavor. In a series of six bimonthly gatherings at local farms, potential producers will benefit from the knowledge and expertise of our experienced producers. Experienced producers will also benefit as they meet, exchange ideas, and mutually support each other as local producers.
 - d. Allen provides needed information for the grant regarding DSWCD budget history
 - e. Hunter will provide last NACD payment date and amount as required for the grant

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to approve the Friends of NACD District Grant today with the noted additions/corrections

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

9. Local Working Group Stakeholders Meeting – Tabled until further notice
10. Supervisor Training – Supervisors need to sign the Acknowledgement of 2019 Supervisor Training Completion form once they have watched the required videos
11. Annual Report
 - a. Tiffany is designing and has prepared a draft
 - b. Supervisors need to send any highlight they want included by Dec 31
 - c. The annual report is due in February

MOTION by Hunter Anderson to hold next Full Board meeting in Baldwin on January 15 at 4:00 p.m.

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

12. Invasive Species – James will be attending a meeting in January addressing invasive species concerns and will report on what he learns
13. MOU with Wealth Watchers – We still need to document our arrangement for the A Philip Randolph park project
14. Bylaws
 - a. Ed and John have not yet presented a document for review
 - b. Jennifer volunteers to contact John and take over the revisions

MOTION by Hunter Anderson to have Jennifer take over revisions of our Bylaws and bring a draft for review to next Full Board meeting

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

15. 2020 Speech and Poster Contest
 - a. Hunter created a blog post on the website
 - b. Allen provides new flyers for distribution at Zoo's Educator Open House in January
 - c. Hunter will look into the poster and speech awards from last year
16. 2020 Envirothon
 - a. Next Envirothon planning meeting is Dec 5 at 3:30 p.m. at Extension office

- b. Allen provides Envirothon registration form (needs to send to Hunter by email so he can put on website)
 - c. Hunter and Josh will work together to make decision regarding the 2 needed portable toilets for the event (plan for 250 people, already one toilet on site)
17. 2020 Land Judging Competition – No updates

New Business

18. DCPS Green Champions
- a. Jennifer met with Susan Carew as requested at the 2019 local working group meeting to discuss how we can engage more teachers in our education programs
 - b. The real problem with teacher participation is that very few principals recognize the value of allowing their teachers to attend Green Champions meetings where they can hear about programs like Speech and Poster Contest and Envirothon
 - c. Discussion included a possible partnership between DSWCD and Green Champions to offer an award program like Conservation Teacher of the Year, but for principals

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to invite Council Member Randy DeFoor as guest speaker for our Full Board meeting on Feb 19, 2020 to speak on the issue of Water Rights/JEA

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

19. 67th Anniversary Event
- a. Josh and Tiffany visited the Garden Club of Jacksonville about possibly hosting the event
 - b. Cost of facility is \$1500, but hope to get it for \$1000 or less
 - c. Will inquire as to whether The Garden Club is interested in being a title sponsor for in-kind donation
 - d. Looking at July 14 or 16 as possible dates, would have the use of the room 4-11pm
 - e. Seating for 60 people, 10 tables in whatever arrangement or size we'd like to use, capacity is 80 people

20. Public Comment - None

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.