



Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wednesday, January 20, 9:00 a.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254

Attendance: Shannon Blankinship, Patrick Bennett, Dan Evans, Brian Allen

Affiliate Members: Ed Wright

Not Present: Evelyn Coney, Board Member; Sebastian Alexander, Affiliate Member; Allen Moore, Affiliate Member.

Audience Attendance Sheet: Terra Freeman, Small and Alternative Farms, Duval IFAS; Victoria Rosati, District Aid; Greg Tison, Jacksonville-Duval Agricultural Council; Charlene Richburg, A.F.C.D

1. Call to order- Chairman, Brian Allen **9:06 a.m.**

2. Review November 18, 2015 and December 9, 2015 meeting minutes.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes by Shannon Blankinship

SECOND from Brian Allen

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

3. Treasurers Report: Patrick Bennett

MOTION to authorize Patrick Bennett to move the Districts bank account by Dan Evans

SECOND from Shannon Blankinship

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

4. Duval IFAS Report: Terra Freeman

- a. Ms. Freeman shared her "Growing for Profit" workshop, which is a 5-part series workshop for beginning farmers and experienced farmers to learn more about the business aspect of farming.

5. Introductions

6. Soils and Wetlands workshop update by Allen Moore

- a. The workshop will be February 11, 2016 and there is a minimum of 30 people.
- b. There are no checks yet toward the event, however Allen Moore suggests the District allow Thomas Waters to do promotion for the event and in return give him a percentage of the proceeds.
 - i. Shannon Blankinship discusses the need for a disclaimer to all who buy spots in the workshop to make them aware of Thomas Waters' percentage of proceeds. Ms. Blankinship also voices her concerns of the possibility that Mr. Waters' could do a large amount of promotion and still not get enough people to attend. In this case the workshop would be cancelled despite Mr. Waters efforts.
 - ii. Dan Evans wants to know what base the District has to pull from for attendance.
 - iii. Allen Moore explains the base should be farmers and ranchers because the information would be most helpful for them but it is more likely the base is realtors and home owners associations.

MOTION by Dan Evans to allow Allen Moore to work with Thomas Waters and agree to give him 20% commission of the proceeds

SECOND by Shannon Blankinship

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

MOTION TO AMEND by Dan Evans to give Allen Moore a 5% range of negotiation so that he does not have to come back the board for approval to negotiate

SECOND by Shannon Blankinship

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

7. Speech Contest update by Allen Moore
 - a. Shannon Blankinship says the contest should be in April.
 - b. Patrick Bennett adds the contest will not be able to be during the District's normal meeting time of 9 a.m. because students will be in school. The contest will need to be held outside of the normal meeting time.
 - c. Shannon Blankinship says the District will need a public space to host the contest.
 - d. Brian Allen says the District will be able to promote the speech contest during the Envirothon on March 10, 2016.
 - e. Dan Evans talks about sponsorships for the contest and what incentives the District could give to encourage sponsorship.
 - f. Allen Moore suggest the District get a picture of Atlantic Coasts' travel trophy to see if the sponsor is named on the trophy.
 - g. Brian Allen says the District should have a title sponsor that should give \$2,000 and the title sponsorship is not exclusive, however we might not have one.
8. Patrick Bennett: Bylaws draft discussion
 - a. The bylaws are a work in progress. The supervisor handbook and the bylaws set standards for the board.
9. Allen Moore on behalf of Ed Wright: Long- range planning draft discussion.
 - a. The board has specific questions they would like to ask Ed Wright so the board will wait to speak with him next meeting.
10. Brian Allen: New board positions
 - a. Open up discussion about board seat elections.

NOMINATION for Shannon Blankinship for Chairperson by Dan Evans

SECOND by Patrick Bennett

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

NOMINATION for Patrick Bennett for Vice Chairperson by Shannon Blankinship

SECOND by Dan Evans

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

NOMINATION for Brian Allen for Treasurer by Dan Evans

SECOND by Shannon Blankinship

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

NOMINATION for Dan Evans for Secretary and to remain the Public Relations Chair, by Patrick Bennett

SECOND by Shannon Blankinship

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

11. Open Discussion

- b.** Brian Allen talks about an idea of helping veterans and people transitioning from prison to get jobs working on local farms.
- c.** Brian Allen is going to the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting.
- d.** Shannon Blankinship discusses the “Maritime Management Plan” for waterfront properties owned by the city of Jacksonville that are not in the best use. The plan is to take polls from people who live in the city of Jacksonville to see what they use the most and then with that information try and create a plan for management use.
 - i.** Shannon is going to talk to the outreach contact for the Maritime Management Plan and see if the District could have her come speak at the Districts next meeting.

11. Public Comments

- a.** Greg Tison suggests the District do workshops on drones for farming.

Meeting adjourned at **10:25 a.m**