



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 a.m.  
Duval Agricultural Extension Office  
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

Supervisors in Attendance: Shannon Blankinship, Allen Moore  
Supervisors Absent: Dan Evans, Nelson Green, Hunter Anderson  
Partners in Attendance: Al Oliver (NRCS) & Geoffrey Sample (SJWMD), Alicia Halbritter (Duval IFAS), David Reed (JEA), Chief Riska (JFRD), Greg Tison (Duval Ag. Council)

Call to order, Chairperson Blankinship 8:09 AM

1. Special Guest, Chief Riska, JFRD, Assistant Chief of Operations
  - a. Gave feedback from recent meeting with JFRD where Allen Moore presented proposal on behalf of DSWCD to look into the need for Dry Hydrants in Duval County.
  - b. Dry Hydrants are open water sources that can be utilized in the event of an emergency to protect property and assets from fire damage.
  - c. Duval County has an ISO Class I rating directly linked to the property insurance rate our city taxpayers pay. If our ISO rating goes down, and our tax rate goes up, it will result in millions of dollars lost by taxpayers. Therefore, it is important to keep the Class I rating.
  - d. JFRD is looking for our help in identifying water sources that could be used in the search for dry hydrant potential sites.
  - e. JFRD is also looking to identify engineering technical assistance, which Allen Moore suggested could possibly occur through the NRCS/USDA to complete a drought study of local resources that must be submitted every few years.
  - f. Follow Up from presentation – Allen Moore offered to find out if NRCS/USDA technical assistance is available to the JFRD process.
2. Featured Speaker – David Reed, Account Executive for Major Accounts, JEA
  - a. Reed and 6 other JEA employees work with major water users – major accounts over \$100,000 a year. Each Account Manager handles 20-30 accounts, and acts as personal JEA liaison with whatever issues, water and electric, they may have.
  - b. Major accounts he works with: manufacturing, home builders, military, paper mills, plastics
  - c. David discussed various issues with water use, but focused on outdoor irrigation. In many places, outdoor irrigation is 50% of total water use. Irrigation is exacerbated by desire for green lawns, lack of understanding about how much water is needed, lack of technology to end overwatering, and no consequences for essentially, “watering the street”. Financial consequences of overwatering are slim.
  - d. See the presentation David gave for how to impact over irrigation in Duval County.
3. Treasurers Report for September/October/November
  - a. Tabled until December 2018 because of absence of Hunter Anderson, Treasurer

4. Review of meeting minutes for August, September, October, November
  - a. Tabled until December meeting because of lack of draft minutes/quorum/ Secretary, Nelson Greene
5. Agency Reports
  - a. SJWMD – Geoffrey Sample
    - i. Ag-Cost Share program discussed, but no projects in Duval County were funded.
    - ii. 11 projects total were funded. Planning to follow up to see if anyone in Duval County applied for funding.
      1. Link for a full list of funded projects  
<https://www.sjrwm.com/2017/11/board-approves-ranking-agricultural-projects-share-1-5-million-water-conservation-nutrient-reduction/>
  - b. NRCS – Al Oliver
    - i. No change in the approval numbers for EQIP applications in Duval County
      1. Deferral letters sent to applicants for future applications
  - c. Duval IFAS – Alicia Halbritter
    - i. HydroRobo Rockers
    - ii. Farming Incentives
6. Ongoing Business
  - a. Ed Wright discussed progress with the Land Judging program. Frank H. Peterson and Mayport Middle School are both interested.
    - i. Ed will give update of registered/interested teams as soon as he knows.
  - b. Shannon Blankinship offered to drive to bank and withdraw a cashier's check for the Jacksonville Duval Agricultural Council for \$100 as a sponsor to the Farm-City Luncheon.
  - c. Shannon Blankinship thanked Allen Moore and agency help for hosting the Start Farming Panel and farmers market. The event featured a 1-hour panel with four local farms and a 1 hour market with farms and non-profit organizations focused on agriculture. See the full write up here:
    - i. <http://www.duvalsoilandwater.com/blog/duval-county-start-farming-panel>

Meeting Adjourned at 9:31 AM