



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Duval Agricultural Extension Office**  
**1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

**Attendance:** Shannon Blankinship, Patrick Bennett, Dan Evans, Brian Allen, Evelyn Coney

**Affiliate Members:** Allen Moore, Ed Wright

*Not Present: Sebastian Alexander, Affiliate Member*

*Audience Attendance Sheet: Jody Lee, FDACS; Victoria Rosati, District Aid; Carolyn Cooper, Envirothon; Margo Moehring, NEFRC*

1. Call to order- Chairperson, Shannon Blankinship **9:02 a.m.**
2. Speaker: Margo Moehring, NEFRC- Presents Duval County Maritime Management Plan
  - a. The Maritime Management Plan is to prioritize the work that needs to be done along Jacksonville waterways.
    - i. There is a survey open to identify which facilities the people of Jacksonville utilize, evaluate the current conditions, and identify the unmet needs.
      1. The survey is on [www.jaxboatplan.com](http://www.jaxboatplan.com)
    - ii. The city's main goals are to:
      1. Prioritize the capital work that needs to be done.
        - a. There will be a series of 3 meetings to gather information from the community.
      2. Gather parameters of the bottom-line for maritime facilities.

*Note: 9:09 a.m. Patrick Bennett enters*

- a. Assessing the waterway needs of Jacksonville.
    - b. The plan is funded by the city of Jacksonville and the Florida Inland District and working with UNF and the Waterways Commission.
      - i. The Waterways Commission perceived a need to look at the changes needed in Jacksonville waterfront properties.
    - c. The planned is nicknamed "Jax Boat Plan."
      - i. The website encourages people to email them about ideas and struggles.
3. Review January 20, 2015 meeting minutes
  - a. Evelyn Coney wants to hold the Public Relations position that Dan Evans used to occupy.
    - i. The position was given to Dan Evans again.
    - ii. Shannon Blankinship tells Evelyn Coney to look through the handbook and decide the position she would like because she was not present at the January meeting.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes by Brain Allen

SECOND from Patrick Bennett

IN FAVOR: Shannon Blankinship, Brian Allen, and Patrick Bennett

OPPOSED: Evelyn Coney

4. Treasurers Report: Patrick Bennett

- a. Final Balance: \$ 1,325.44.
- b. Discussed funds coming in and how to solicit donations.

*Note: 9:28 a.m. Dan Evans Enters*

- 5. Soils and Wetlands workshop recap by Allen Moore
  - a. The workshop was cancelled due to lack of interest.
    - i. District discussed the public probably did not sign up for the workshop because of the cost and lack of advertising.
      - 1. Maybe next time there should be sponsors for the workshop.
    - ii. District discussed how to reach out to the people who would benefit from this type of workshop.
      - 1. Jody Lee- recommends when state agencies have meetings, the District should attend and tell them about the workshops.
  - b. Evelyn Coney would like to be the point person to get information out to the public.
- 6. Speech Contest update by Allen Moore
  - a. So far there are 5 contestants, possibly more.
  - b. There are no secured judges yet.
    - i. Allen Moore is the mediator at the Area Speech Contest.
- 7. Envirothon update and Sponsorships by Dan Evans
  - a. There are 7 schools and another participant.
    - i. 24 teams.
  - b. Allen Moore may need to be the soil scientist.

*Note: 9:59 a.m. Evelyn Coney leaves*

- c. Clay County is having trouble getting participants.

**8. Bylaws by Patrick Bennett**

MOTION to table the bylaws discussion by Dan Evans

SECOND from Patrick Bennett

IN FAVOR: Unanimous

- 9. Long-range planning by Ed Wright
  - a. The "point of contact" does not mean that person is responsible or needs to solely accomplish something.
    - i. Brian Allen- If a person is committing to something, it needs to get done. Concerned with committing to too much.
      - 1. Brian Allen wants to be the point person for Thomas Creek
    - ii. Shannon Blankinship- can choose what topic people like and make it specific to them.
- 10. Open Discussion
  - a. Ed Wright was contacted by Oakleaf High School to go to the school and talk to the students about soil and water.
    - i. Allen Moore and Dan Evans volunteered to go.
  - b. Dan Evans in addition to wanting to know more about the drones workshops, also agrees to take the next steps to figure out who

would be a potential speaker and who would be interested in attending.

- i. Jody Lee suggested talking to the Florida Blue Farms. They use drones for agricultural use.
- c. Shannon Blankinship talks about the water recharge project in Clay County.
  - i. The project is to redirect storm water to recharge basins.
    - 1. Possible speaker opportunity.
- d. Shannon Blankinship talks about the potential Supervisors running for the 2 open seats and 4 for this year.
  - i. Has an idea of holding workshops for people who have already filed for positions to inform them what the district does.

#### **11. Public Comments**

- a. Allen Moore has already done Envirothon training with: Atlantic Coast High School, Frank H. Peterson Academy, and Sandalwood High School.
  - i. Has plans to train with: Christ Church Academy and Darnell Cookman High School.
- b. Ed Wright discusses city counsel's possible work with old septic tanks.
  - i. Suggest the District write a letter in support and emphasizing the importance.

Meeting adjourned at **10:32 a.m.**