



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

Supervisors in Attendance: Chairperson Blankinship, Allen Moore, Dan Evans, and Nelson Greene

Affiliate Members in attendance: John Barnes, Edward Wright

Not Present: Hunter Anderson, Sebastian Alexander

Audience Attendance: Alicia Halbritter (IFAS), Jack Hernandez (Florida Forest Service), Paula Allen, (NRCS), Geoffrey Sample (SJRWMD)

1. Call to order, Chairperson Blankinship 8:08 am
2. Guest Speaker
 - a. City Council President, Lori Boyer, was unable to attend
3. Minutes from Feb 15th, 2017 introduced

MOTION to approve by Allen Moore contingent on the transcriber's name being added to minutes
SECOND by Nelson Greene

IN FAVOR: Allen Moore, Chairperson Blankinship, Nelson Greene

- a. Minutes passed
4. Treasurer's report
 - a. In the treasurer's absence, the March report will be provided in April
5. Agency Reports
 - a. Geoffrey Sample (SJRWMD)
 - i. The SJRWMD's Governing Board issued a water shortage warning for a number of counties within the state of Florida due to climatic conditions
 1. Duval and St. Johns County are not included in the warning
 - a. Does not implement any further restrictions on home/business owners
 - ii. April is water conservation month
 1. A proclamation will be introduced at the April meeting
 - b. Jack Hernandez (Florida Forest Service)
 - i. Wildfire risk is at a high level in NE FL (due to climate conditions and rain deficits)
 - a. Exceptionally active wild fire risk in NE FL
 - ii. The Arbor Day event will be held on April 28th at the University of North Florida
 - a. This is an event in conjunction with Florida Forest Services
 - b. Two trees will be supplied, 12 volunteers will be needed
 - iii. On April 1st, Greenscape of Jacksonville will be hosting an Arbor Day event at Metropolitan Park, supervisors are encouraged to attend
 - c. Alicia Halbritter (IFAS)
 - i. Spoke about ongoing wildfires in the Midwest and the negative impact they are having on farms and livestock
 1. Hay and other materials are being donated to the impacted region

- ii. IFAS poultry courses are gaining popularity in northeast Florida
 - d. Paula Allen NRCS
 - i. NRCS is currently in a funding cycle
 - 1. The organization is working with the Clara White Mission to install micro jet system, capable of significant water reduction
- 6. Ongoing Business
 - a. Update on the AFCD Area II Meeting Update: April 18, full day, at White Harvest Farm
 - i. Attendance expected from all supervisors
 - 1. Duties to be assigned before meeting
 - ii. Potential sponsor for Area II meeting to offset food costs
 - iii. Venus rental was donated in-kind
 - b. 2017 Speech Contest
 - i. Allen Moore provided an update on registration
 - c. EPB Grant Submission
 - i. The \$15,000 grant proposal from the district was approval unanimously
 - 1. Final vote of approval will be held by Jacksonville City Council
 - a. Funds will be used to expand on the Duval County Envirothon
 - d. AFCD Dues
 - i. Discussion moved to April meeting
 - e. Water Conservation Month
 - i. Potential proclamation to be proposed in April meeting
- 7. Chairperson Blankinship called the meeting adjourned at 9:52 am

Meeting Minutes take by Nelson Greene