



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wednesday, May 17th, 8:00 a.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

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

Affiliate Members in attendance: Edward Wright

Audience Attendance: Al Oliver (NRCS), Geoffrey Sample (SJRWMD), Stacey Simmons (FDACS/OAWP), Jodi Lee (FDACS/OAWP), Alicia Halbritter (IFAS), John Nooney (Jacksonville Citizen)

Call to order, Chairperson Blankinship 8:04 am

1. Featured speaker for May 2017, was unable to attend
 - a. Discussion of representatives from Jacksonville Electric Authority and/or current city council members as future speakers
2. Minutes from April 2017 introduced

MOTION to approve by Dan Evans

SECOND by Nelson Greene

IN FAVOR UNANIMOUS

- a. Minutes passed
3. Treasurer's report introduced by Hunter Anderson
 - a. Hunter Anderson provided an overview of the April financial activity in the treasurer's report
 - i. Reconciled balances after the month of April: \$1,889.59
 - ii. No anticipated income on the horizon
 - iii. Anticipated expenses
 1. Special district fee

MOTION to approve by Dan Evans

SECOND by Hunter Anderson

IN FAVOR UNANIMOUS

4. Agency Reports
 - a. NRCS
 - i. EQIP report
 1. 12 Applications from Duval Residents did not receive funding for the EQIP Program
 - a. There was discussion about the possibility of the board providing more support to applicants seeking funding from NRCS

- b. Al Oliver will let us know how we can help submit a letter of support to unfunded property owners to encourage them to apply again in the future.
 - b. IFAS
 - i. Alicia Provided an update about the ongoing support from her office to help secure a location for Envirothon 2018
 - c. FDACS
 - i. Stacy Simmons is now working with Office of Agriculture Water Policy
 - 1. Jodi Lee leaving for a different role
 - d. SJWMD
 - i. The district approved a water shortage warning for Duval and other surrounding counties
- 5. Ongoing business
 - a. Arbor Day Event Recap
 - i. Two trees were planted on public property in celebration of Arbor Day
 - ii. There was discussion of next year's ceremony being held in January 2018
 - b. Water Conservation Proclamation
 - i. Continue efforts by the board to promote the proclamation on social media
 - c. Members from Sandalwood High School, winners of the 2017 Envirothon, were recognized at the May 2017 Duval School Board Meeting
 - i. School board should have the photos available
 - d. The district is still in search of an intern for the Summer/Fall semester
- 6. Roundtable Discussion
 - a. Ed Wright: As a Home Owners Association Board Member, would be willing to talk to his HOA, and attempt to have direct relationships with other HOAs to suggest water conservation techniques.
 - b. Ed Wright: Recently spoke at a local high school about Careers in Agriculture as a workshop.
 - c. Shannon Blankinship: is looking to host a Conservation Funding workshop in the fall with the goal of having farmers learn more about available conservation funding sources. Discussed the idea of instead making it a panel where local farmers answer questions from audience about their experience in farming, including getting product to market and legal hurdles.
 - d. Alicia Halbritter (Duval IFAS) is willing to help the DSWCD host the Conservation Funding Workshop in the fall.
 - e. Stacey Simmons (FDACS) - can connect the District to CIZMA, an invasive species group that regularly sends out internship opportunities to a broad group with our District Aid job opening.
- 7. Public Comments: John Nooney - has an idea to plant citrus trees in or around the current JEA Southside Generating Station property adjacent to the Duval County Public Schools Building. The project would create an urban food forest at the heart of our public school system and would give citrus to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Meeting Minutes taken by Nelson Greene