



Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 8:30 a.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254

Supervisors in Attendance: Shannon Blankinship, Ed Wright, Hunter Anderson

Affiliate Members: Kiana Harper

Partners: Al Oliver (NRCS), Jennifer Casey (Candidate), Bob Abeue

Meeting Called To Order: 8:41am

1. Swearing in Ceremony – Ed Wright
 - a. Tabled for July 18, 2018 regular Monthly Meeting
2. Review Minutes from February 2018, April 2018, May 2018
 - a. Tabled to end of meeting, waiting on presence of Secretary, Dan Evans
3. Review Treasurers Report, Bank Status, Budget 2018
 - a. Hunter Anderson – brought paperwork for new bank account with BBVA. Need to put money in the account. In order to do that, need final balance in Wells Fargo, and decide how to close out the account.
 - b. Shannon Blankinship will close Wells Fargo account and get remainder of funds to Hunter Anderson for deposit in BBVA Compass bank account.
 - c. Treasurers Report – Hunter Anderson is missing bank statements from Wells Fargo accounts because Allen Moore is not sending electronically. Allen Moore personally handed over the hard copies at the May 18, 2018 meeting for March and April 2018. They are now scanned and located in the DSWCD shared google drive under “finances”.
 - d. Budget – Shannon Blankinship passed around an updated 2018 revenues and expenditures budget for this year so far. It shows our bank balance at \$2,333.18 as of June 20, 2018. Missing funds include Envirothon Sponsorship from Nassau Soil and Water Conservation District, which Ed Wright said he would take the lead on following up on. Also, missing was sponsorship from St. Johns County Soil and Water Conservation District who John Barnes had reached out to, and who we have not heard from since March of this year. We also are missing the Envirothon grant from the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board. Unfortunately, they have changed the anticipated arrival date from September 2017 to January 2018 to September 2018.
4. Agency Reports
 - a. NRCS - Al Oliver
 - i. 1 forestry application moving forward in Duval County.
 - ii. Applicants are reviewed on an ongoing basis, but cut-off is in October to review the batch received up to that point.
 - iii. Following the national Farm Bill, but so far, still under several changes based on a merger of two departments from previous bill.
 - b. Wealth Watchers – Kiana Harper
 - i. Rural Small Business Grants – Wealth Watchers is now able to offer loans of up to \$50k for small businesses looking to expand in rural areas.
 - ii. Kiana informed us that she has taken a new position with a new company, and is no longer working with Wealth Watchers starting next week. Once she learns

her new schedule, she can let us know if she will still be able to regularly attend our meetings.

5. Ongoing Business

a. Conservation Teacher of the Year

- i. Presentation from Ed Wright and Jennifer Casey. Reviewing Conservation Teacher of the Year programs with USGBC – Northeast Florida, Levy County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board.
- ii. Based on that analysis, Ed and Jennifer wrote up a DRAFT Conservation Teacher of the Year program, which is similar to the others, but requires participation in one of the DSWCD education events: Envirothon, Land Judging, Poster or Speech contest. The idea would be to nominate a participating teacher or have them nominate themselves, have Supervisors consider the nominations, vote on a winner, award a cash prize, trophy, and nominate the winner of our contest to the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board environmental awards with a deadline of July 20, 2018. Ed, Jennifer and Hunter all agreed that more work and analysis must be done, and that the July Plan of Work meeting is when that should happen.

b. 65th Anniversary

- i. Ed Wright said that Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture and Al Lawson, Congressman from our district and member of the US Agriculture Committee, both declined participation for our 65th Anniversary event.
- ii. Ed Wright suggested that instead we host a “publicity event” where we have a media blitz, invite media to attend our monthly meeting, and send out a press release highlighting the 65 years.
- iii. Kiana suggested reaching out to a few national leaders in urban agriculture, and has contacts. Not sure if they have the local name recognition we are looking for, but she is going to work with Ed to develop a plan.

c. Local Working Group

- i. Ed defined Local Working Group (LWG). Passed out M_440_501_B – subpart B defining LWGs and explained the basis of a working group meeting.
- ii. Ed wants to meet with state and federal representatives to let them know what local issues are.
- iii. Ed will come up with a sample agenda and invite list for the LWG meeting.

d. AFCD Area II Meeting

- i. Passed around the agenda. Has considerable interest.

6. Open Discussion

a. Shannon Blankinship

- i. Start Farming Panel – looking for ideas for the panelist, going to start reaching out to get a “save the date” out. Ideas: Urban Folk Farm, White Harvest Farm – we could invite the farmer instead of the owner for a different perspective, Ed Wright, knows a guy who farms and sells from a truck – will send contact info, Kiana Harper – has contact for a hydroponic farmer from Atlantic Beach – will send contact info.
- ii. Julington Durbin Preserve – question about the proposed land development in Julington Durbin Preserve raised from audience member. Discussed the precedent and the significant value to soil and water conservation.

MOTION by Ed Wright that DSWCD support resolution/sign on letter to protect Julington Durbin Preserve being circulated that groups are signing onto.

SECOND from Hunter Anderson

IN FAVOR Unanimous

7. Agenda for July 2018 meeting

- a. Swearing in Ceremony for Ed Wright – to be performed by Allen Moore
- b. Ed Wright – Envirothon funds update from Nassau SWCD
- c. Ed Wright – LWG Agenda and draft letter to partners
- d. Shannon Blankinship – Start Farming Panel - updates

Meeting Adjourned at 10:12am