



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wednesday, June 21st, 8:00 a.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

Supervisors in Attendance: Chairperson Blankinship, Allen Moore, Dan Evans

Affiliate Members in attendance: John Barnes

Audience Attendance: Al Oliver (NRCS), Geoffrey Sample (SJRWMD), Stacey Simmons (FDACS OAWP), Paula Allen (NRCS), Alicia Halbritter (Duval IFAS)

1. Call to Order, Chairperson Blankinship 8:06 am
2. Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2017 – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING
3. Treasurers Report – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING
4. Agency Reports
 - a. Al Oliver (NRCS)
 - i. Field office activity
 1. No one was funded in Duval County from NRCS programs in 2017-2018
 - ii. Letter of non-approval – awaiting response from FOIA officer about our ability to send letter to cost-share applicants who were NOT funded, and encourage to apply next cycle
 - iii. Al Oliver can be speaker for future meeting – discussing the conservation funding programs under the USDA Farm Bill
 - iv. Must return the Civil Rights checklist doc at next meeting, signed by all Supervisors
 - b. Alicia Halbritter (Duval IFAS)
 - i. Working on a Livestock and Forage Field Day, July 27, 8am-2pm at the Santa Fe River Ranch
 - c. Stacey Simmons (FDACS OAWP)
 - i. Working to get voluntary BMP registration at local farms
 - ii. Duval County has BMPs for
 1. 1 Specialty Fruit and Nut grower
 2. 6 Cow/Calf operations
 3. 4 Equine
 4. 2 Nurseries
 - d. Geoff Sample (SJRWMD)
 - i. Provided an update on the water shortage warnings impacting parts of north east Florida
 - ii. Just awarded \$21 million for entire district cost-share programs
 - iii. 3 projects in Duval County
 - iv. Annual Water Use report just completed for 2016. Shows overall per household water use is UP for 2016
5. Ongoing Business
 - a. AFCD Annual Meeting – July 21 – 23 in Ocala, FL.
 - i. Blankinship, Moore, Evans, Barnes – all not attending. White, Greene and Anderson – not present/no answer.

- ii. Blankinship - We have received a gift basket donation from Congaree and Penn farm to raise funds at the silent auction for AFCD. Will represent farms from Duval County. Not sure how we will deliver basket to Ocala meeting.
 - b. Paula Allen Retirement
 - i. Position is not to be filled because of hiring freeze
 - ii. Al Oliver will cover Paula's main duties in the meantime.
 - iii. Allen Moore will get our mail from the NRCS Baldwin office
 - iv. Paula's final words to Board: In comparison to previous boards that I have been working with for over 20 years, you all are doing great work and should be very proud of yourselves. We are an innovative, active group. We should be very proud of the Area II meeting and I was proud to be in attendance and see all that we were able to share among Districts. Great farm tour, great partnership with the Clara White Mission.
6. Plan of Work
- a. Must include funded work from the Envirothon and Conservation Education programs into the Plan of Work. Funding (\$5,000) expected in September 2017, September 2018, September 2019. Must submit annual reports with stats about the work, based on the Memorandum of Understanding in order to receive the funding.
 - b. John Barnes – Plan of Work Update
 - i. Will continue to work with Dan Evans as Envirothon leads, attending Envirothon planning meetings and working to complete portions of funded grant work
 - ii. Barnes and Greene have both been working on the University or North Florida higher education conservation/policy think tank idea, but says that Greene is the lead and would need to defer to him for status of idea
 - iii. Envirothon Brochure – need to reach out to Kelsey with Duval IFAS to ensure we have provided adequate content to ensure they are printed
 - c. Allen Moore – Plan of Work Update
 - i. Will reach out to Frank H. Peterson to host a Land Judging competition in Duval County in 2018. Has a \$500 budget to pull this event off. Should be held in March 2018, because April 2018 is the regional competition. \$250 of budget is the cost to send the team to the regional competition.
 - ii. To enhance the Poser/Speech Contest in 2018, NEED a new plan to reach students. Past 3 years we have received 3 students in Duval to participate in the speech contest, and 0 for poster. MUST find a partnership to get the word out. We have judges' gifts and prize money confirmed. We just need participation. Moore says he will make a plan, written, for getting the work out in 2018.
 - iii. Dry Hydrant research, waiting on District Aid position to be filled for this task
 - d. Dan Evans – Plan of Work Update
 - i. Need to provide write up on action with Sherwood Forest flooding issues and whether or not they are resolved
 - ii. Wants to remove Emergency Watershed Protection Program from Plan of Work because we are working with them and no further action is needed
 - e. Shannon Blankinship – Plan of Work Update
 - i. Conservation Funding Workshop – planning with Duval IFAS to be held in November 2017
 - ii. Partnerships – List Actions, ongoing
 - iii. Link to NFWSP, create blog entry with info about the final report, Duval Stats – Geoff Sample to send over info for this.

7. Open Discussion
 - a. July Agenda, 2 meeting minutes, 2 treasurers reports
 - b. John, will send School Board image out to group
 - c. Al Oliver – cannot attend July meeting, please remove from agenda
8. Public Comments - none

Chairperson Blankinship called the meeting adjourned at 9:42 am

Meeting Minutes take by Shannon Blankinship