



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wednesday, September 19, 2018 8:30 a.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

Supervisors in Attendance: Shannon Blankinship, Ed Wright, Allen Moore, Dan Evans, Hunter Anderson
Affiliate Members: Kiana Harper, John Barnes
Partners: Alicia Halbritter (IFAS)
General Public: Bob Abene, Jennifer Casey, Carlton Higginbotham, Sel Buyuksorac

Meeting Called To Order: 8:34am

1. Opening Comments – Allen Moore. No agency partners present, so presented updates for each.
2. Agency Reports
 - a. NRCS
 - i. The busiest time of year for NRCS.
 - b. FFS
 - i. Hired a Duval County forester, but they left within a few weeks. Allen Moore has been working with the District Forester regarding participation and support in our Local Working Group.
 - ii. Allen Moore will send contact information for District Forester to Shannon Blankinship to include in our monthly meeting notices.
 - c. Duval IFAS – Alicia Halbritter
 - i. No updates
 - d. SJRWMD – Geoff Sample
 - i. Was unable to attend, but provided Duval County rainfall data electronically
3. Minutes from June 2018

MOTION from Shannon Blankinship to accept Minutes from July 3, 2018 Plan of Work meeting and August 15, 2018 monthly meeting
SECOND from Hunter Anderson
IN FAVOR Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bob Abene said hello, told us good work on signing on the resolution letter to save Julington Durbin Preserve, said he needs to leave early. Here to listen and learn.

4. Review Treasurers Report
 - a. Hunter Anderson announced \$2,633 bank balance

MOTION to approve from Ed Wright
SECOND from Dan Evans
IN FAVOR Unanimous

5. Plan of Work Subcommittee meeting
 - a. Allen Moore asked folks to please come. First Wednesday of the month, 8:30am.
6. Ongoing Business

- a. Envirothon 2019
 - i. March 7, 2019, Diamond D Ranch. Still confirming venue needs and requirements.
 - ii. Allen Moore will tour Diamond D with Joyce Miller, ask questions, get details, confirm venue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carlton Higginbotham – former Supervisor for 2 terms, here to help. Created Envirothon brochures.
Sel B. – Announced himself and reason for running.

Envirothon cont.

- iii. Recognizing the winner from last year’s Envirothon and Conservation Teacher of the Year at the October 9 Duval County School Board meeting, 6:00pm.
- iv. Ed Wright will send Scott Sowell nomination bio to Shannon to include on our website. Shannon will send to Dan Evans for DCSB necessary agenda info.

MOTION to reimburse Carlton Higginbotham for brochure expenses, totaling \$107.00 for 400 copies made by Hunter Anderson

SECOND by Dan Evans

IN FAVOR unanimous

- v. Brochure distribution plan:
 - 1. Allen Moore will develop distribution plan, and send to everyone. Will send emails to school contacts, and cc: Supervisors so that we can follow up and do the same.
 - 2. Shannon Blankinship will send electronic brochure to full contact list with information about the 2018 Envirothon. Waiting on registration details from Joyce to combine with brochure.
 - 3. Dan Evans will bring brochures to the October 9 school board meeting and pass out there.
- vi. Allen Moore will send out sponsorship letter to all Supervisors and Affiliates so that we may begin contacting potential sponsors. Allen will also tell folks WHO he is reaching out to, and asks that all Supervisors do the same.
- b. Conservation Teacher of the Year
 - i. Jennifer Casey sent final Conservation Teacher of the Year program details to all Supervisors, and plan was approved at the July 3 Plan of Work meeting
 - ii. Shannon Blankinship will get program up on our website.
- c. Local Working Group
 - i. Ed Wright passed out hard copy invite list. Is still adding to the list.
 - ii. Ed Wright passed out hard copy invite letter.
 - iii. Ed Wright will send, electronically, invite letter, meeting agenda and invite list before next meeting. Anticipated date for LWG meeting is November 21, 2018.
- d. Teacher Summit
 - i. Allen Moore will provide summary statement of purpose and goals for Teacher Summit.
 - ii. Shannon Blankinship will look into dates for TEACH Conference, Teacher Supply Depot events, APES Teacher Workshop with St. Johns Riverkeeper, and other

teacher events where we might be able to present or provide information on our conservation education initiatives.

- iii. Dan Evans stressed the importance of a presentation, not handouts. We need to present our programs to teachers, not just hand out information about Envirothon, etc.
 - e. AFCD Florida meeting
 - i. Ed Wright attended the annual AFCD conference. Declared it was the best ever. Highlights: roundtable of agency experts discussing their work.
 - ii. Passed out the updated 2018 Supervisor Handbook. Not sure if available electronically.
 - iii. Discussed the Volusia County Local Working Group Meeting as very productive. Shannon Blankinship will follow up with Volusia SWCD to get details of their LWG meeting.
 - f. Start Farming Panel
 - i. Shannon Blankinship presented update for planned November 13, 2018 Start Farming Panel.
 - ii. Invites went out to Atlantic Beach Urban Farm, Bee Friends Farm, White Harvest Farm, and Bacons Select.
 - iii. Next steps, wait until confirmation from at least 2 farms and then reach out to agency partners. Work to build market portion of the event.
 - iv. SB – reach out to Moon over Market and Slow Food First Coast Farm Tour about joint marketing.
 - v. Alicia Halbritter recommended Dawls UPick Blueberry Farm as another different farm model if any of our farmers are unavailable.
 - vi. Allen Moore mentioned White Harvest Farm as being the only farm in the state of Florida to receive the Conservation Innovation grant from NRCS. Grant connected to soil research.
 - g. Emergency Watershed Protection program
 - i. Allen Moore wants to make sure we all know about it.
7. New Business
- a. Poster and Speech Contest
 - i. John Barnes will be 2019 Point of Contact for the contest. Allen Moore directed him to get more info on NACD website. John Barnes will collect information and present at next meeting. Contest likely in March/April 2019.
 - ii. Kiana Harper also possibly willing to help, but Allen Moore provided no information or background on program and so was left with little information to make a decision.
 - b. Land Judging
 - i. Ed Wright said that he would present on this annual event during our next meeting.
 - ii. Kiana Harper may also be able to help with this event, but no information has been provided.
 - c. 2018 Accomplishments
 - i. Shannon Blankinship offered to help deliver a list of 2018 accomplishments for the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District at the next meeting, for discussion and approval before the end of 2018.
 - d. Farm City Luncheon
 - i. Allen will provide fact sheet and 5 steps worksheet to the “diddy bags”

MOTION by Dan Evens to support the annual Farm City Luncheon with a \$200 sponsorship

SECOND by Ed Wright

IN FAVOR Ed Wright, Dan Evans, Allen Moore

OPPOSE Shannon Blankinship, Hunter Anderson

MOTION CARRIES. Check to be mailed or handed to Allen Moore by Hunter Anderson.

8. Open Discussion

- a. John Barnes stressed importance of carrying over information after elections to new supervisors
- b. John Barnes wants to recognize outgoing Supervisors for 4 years or service.
- c. Hunter Anderson will be at the Envirofest at the Cummer Museum on October 6 from 10am -3:45. Kiana Harper will stop by and help our table.

Agenda for October 2018 meeting

1. Hunter Anderson – 2019 draft Budget
2. Ed Wright – LWG Agenda and draft letter to invitees
3. Allen Moore – Teacher Summit update based on info provided by Shannon Blankinship
4. Shannon Blankinship – 2018 Accomplishments

Meeting Adjourned at 10:34am