



**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Wednesday, September 21, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Duval Agricultural Extension Office**  
**1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254**

**Attendance:** Brian Allen, Shannon Blankinship, Dan Evans Jr., Evelyn Coney

**Affiliate Members:** Allen Moore, Ed Wright

*Not Present: Sebastian Alexander, Affiliate Member*

*Audience Attendance: John Barnes, Candidate DSWCD 2016; Jack Hernandez, Florida Forest Service; Nelson Greene, Candidate, DSWCD 2016*

**Note:** *The August meeting was cancelled because of a lack of a quorum. Allen Moore and Shannon Blankinship discussed the plan of work and started an action plan.*

1. Call to order- Chairperson, Shannon Blankinship **9:08 a.m.**
2. Shannon Blankinship - introduced guest speaker Jack Hernandez, Florida Forest Service.
  - a. Jack's presentation involved information about local government program development, demonstration for the site specific projects, education of projects, partnership in funding, non-profit administration, information and education, along with matching fund opportunities and in kind activities. Jack mentioned there are funds on a small scale for Arbor Day.
  - b. Allen Moore mentioned funds that were available in the past that we can apply for to sponsor the Environthon.
  - c. Jack invited members to attend The Florida Forest: Working for Landowners and Wildlife workshop scheduled Oct 19, 2016 in Bryceville.
3. Shannon Blankinship - review of the July 20<sup>th</sup> minutes.

MOTION to approve minutes by Dan Evans

SECOND by Evelyn Coney

IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS

4. Brian Allen - treasurers report with the report of the transfer of bank account to Wells Fargo Bank due to months of bank fees and charges.
  - a. Evelyn Coney opened the discussion about having a second signature on the account.

MOTION for the signatures on the new bank account to be held by Chairman and Treasurer.

SECOND by Evelyn Coney

IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS

5. The NRCS report about Privacy Disclosure Notice was deferred to the October 19th meeting.
6. Duval IFAS Report was not given because the position has not been filled.
7. No Florida AG Lands Manager report – Jody Lee currently in Tallahassee.
8. 2017 Envirothon Progress Report – Dan Evans
  - a. School Board will be contacted to present the trophy at the Oct 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - b. Need Suggested List of sponsors from supervisors.
  - c. Joyce will need to provide participating schools and approved registration.
  - d. Cover letter and sponsorship package will be presented at the October meeting.
  - e. Dates, pictures and verbiage are being changed on the brochures.

- f. Ed Wright and Evelyn Coney plan to draft a letter to present to the schools about Envirothon
  - g. Shannon Blankinship opened a discussion about the meals for the Envirothon to be continued in the Oct. meeting.
9. Shannon Blankinship – Plan of Work
- a. Shannon Blankinship wants to host a Funding Resources Workshop in February 2017 with FDACS, NRCS DEP and SJRWMD speaking to landowners and farmers.
  - b. Brian Allen reported that the Thomas Creek project would be a hard sell even with a matching cost share. Most of the development is on the NASSAU side. Nassau has developed residence, while the Duval side is a swampy wetland. Suggest discussing with residents around the area on ways to pressure city officials.

MOTION by Evelyn Coney to form a subcommittee to meet outside monthly meetings to discuss action items on the Plan of Work.

SECOND by Dan Evans

IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS. The Chairman will set up a meeting and notify supervisors and public.

10. Shannon Blankinship - accepted the written resignation of Patrick Bennett and opened the floor for nominations to replace the Vice-Chair position.
- a. Dan Evans nominated Allen Moore.

MOTION made by Dan Evans to close the floor for nominations to fill the vacant seat of Patrick Bennett, Seat 1, Term 9/2016-1/2019

SECOND by Brian Allen

IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS. Floor is now closed for nominations.

- b. Open discussion on Allen Moore, current affiliate member with the DSWCD for several years and retired soil scientist with the NRCS for over 40 years.
- c. Allen Moore spoke, said he would be honored to serve, and accepted the nomination.

MOTION made by Dan Evans to have Allen Moore fill the vacant seat of Patrick Bennett, Seat 1, Term 9/2016-1/2019

SECOND by Brian Allen

IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS. Allen Moore is now filling the current vacancy on the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District.

- d. Discussion of Associate Member space that is now open. John Barnes was a candidate for DSWCD Seat 2 in the November 2016 election, but withdrew. Is willing to serve as Affiliate Member.
- e. Allen Moore brought forth suggested paperwork that would serve as questionnaire or interview for any potential new Affiliate Member.

MOTION by Evelyn Coney make John Barnes an Associate Member of the DSWCD SECOND by Brian Allen

IN FAVOR: Evelyn Coney, Dan Evans, Brian Allen

OPPOSED: Shannon Blankinship, Allen Moore. Shannon Blankinship explained that she would prefer applicants complete some kind of application or questionnaire to get a better understanding of their interest in serving and helping the District before consideration of Affiliate Membership.

MOTION carries with a 3-2 vote, John Barnes is new Affiliate Member

- 11. Shannon Blankinship - There have been no interviews for the District Aid position which was sent to FCSL Environmental Law Society.
- 12. Dan Evans will reach out to for speaker from the city emergency department.
- 13. The next meeting is scheduled at the Florida Forest Service Workshop, 10/19/2016 at the Bryceville Forest Station. A Swearing in Ceremony will be held for Allen Moore.

Meeting adjourned at **10:58 a.m.**