

Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
PLAN OF WORK SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 3:30 p.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254



Supervisors in Attendance: Allen Moore, Hunter Anderson, Jennifer Casey
Affiliate Members: None
Partners: None
General Public: Dorothy Gillette, Brian Bills

Meeting Called to Order: 3:43 pm

1. PUD review and recommendations
 - a. Chair recognizes Dorothy Gillette representing 135 affected homeowners who have signed a petition and are concerned about PUD impact to Merritt Creek and Trout River from the addition of 300+ new homes
 - b. Ms. Gillette states their concerns which include:
 - a. Deforestation of entire peninsula
 - b. No bulkhead planned
 - c. Storm water seepage
 - d. Pesticide runoff
 - e. Impacts to sizeable dolphin, tarpon and manatee populations in Merritt Creek
 - f. Impacts to sizeable bald eagle population on peninsula
 - g. Impacts to shrimp and crab populations in Trout River, recently restored from prior decline
 - h. Wind break will no longer exist leaving peninsula susceptible to storm winds
 - i. Harm to small business - organic pecan farm on the peninsula
 - j. Developer promising deep water access in shallow Merritt Creek to be achieved by dredging creek and using that material to fill wetlands AND costs of future maintenance of deep water access
 - k. Insufficient wetlands indicated on COJ map of peninsula which makes it appear that less wetlands are affected than really will be affected
 - c. Ms. Gillette states they have successfully reached out to Council Members Pittman, Brosche, and Ferraro
 - d. Ms. Gillette states they are in discussions with:
 - a. St. Johns Riverkeeper – letter of support for homeowners expected
 - b. Jacksonville Zoo – letter of support for homeowners expected
 - c. CSX – presently in talks with Peggy Smith, Regional Manager for Community Affairs who has concerns about their ROW and congestion at railroad crossing
 - d. Northside CPAC #8 - letter of support for homeowners expected
 - e. Ms. Gillette states that April 16 is the deadline for letters of support for the homeowners in their fight against PUD on the peninsula
 - f. Chairman Comments – The Chair provides Ms. Gillette with directions on accessing Duval County Soil Survey available on USDA NRCS website and advises her that DSWCD will respond in writing to her request within 7 days

- g. In addition to documentation already provided to DSWCD, Ms. Gillette is asked to provide copies of any letters of support the homeowners receive for our records
 - h. DSWCD Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8 at 3:30 pm at County Extension for a formal consideration of the matter
- 2. COJ/EPB grant update - COJ EPB says check is in the mail
- 3. AFCD Area II meeting is April 11, 2019 – Allen Moore, Ed Wright and James Cook plan to attend
- 4. 2019 Regional and State Envirothon
 - a. Allen Moore will contact school board about presenting winning team with plaque and trophy before end of May
 - b. Trophy status – Hunter Anderson will handle
 - c. State competition registration and travel expenses to be expected (Envirothon travel/room/meals)
 - d. Joyce Miller sent registration
 - e. \$100 Honorarium for Joyce Miller, Coordinator
 - f. Board members need to be added to Envirothon email list
 - g. 2020 Envirothon at Arboretum, tentative
- 5. 2019 Poster Contest
 - a. Our winners were submitted for AFCD Area II competition on April 11, 2019
 - b. Sponsorship check from Soil Life Organics was deposited
- 6. 2019 Speech Contest
 - a. Anyse-Leanna Martin of The Foundation Academy will deliver her speech at the AFCD Area II competition on April 11, 2019
 - b. Registration and travel expenses to be expected
- 7. 2020 Land Judging – Plans underway, Ed Wright has 2 teams confirmed
- 8. Conservation Teacher of the Year- Jennifer Casey will send last year’s criteria for review
- 9. Bylaw Task Force – Suggested revisions to be reviewed at April Full Board meeting
- 10. 2019 Plan of Operations
 - a. Waiting on minutes/report from November 2018 Local Working Group meeting
 - b. Add EWP, add local stewardship education and outreach
- 11. Affiliate Membership Review
 - a. Allen Moore has provided an application for candidates to submit in writing
 - b. We need to approve criteria at April Full Board meeting
 - c. Open a review period, invitation for candidates to begin attending meetings, date of affiliate membership appointment
 - d. Hunter Anderson contacted Richard McC Carson about his interest in serving DSWCD
- 12. Start Farming Panel
 - a. Allen will contact Shannon Blankinship to see if she is interested in coordinating
 - b. Jennifer Casey volunteers to coordinate, if needed
 - c. Plan for November, but not Farm City week
- 13. DSWCD 66th Anniversary – July 10, 2019
 - a. Bring recommendations for new venue to April Full Board meeting
 - b. Consider a weekday breakfast and invite City Council members, contacts and general public
- 14. Soil and Water Stewardship Week – 4/28/19-5/4/19
- 15. Sierra Club Stewardship Outreach Partnership – Sierra Club confirming location and date
- 16. NACD Annual Report – Copies provided
- 17. Arbor Day
 - a. Supervisors invited by FFS to attend COJ Arbor Day at Treaty Oak on April 6, 2019

- b. Florida Arbor Day is Jan 17, 2020 - Hunter Anderson will plan observance
- 18. Future Flooding Impacts
 - a. Jennifer Casey suggests all visit www.floodiq.com to see a map with anticipate flooding risks over the next 15 years
 - b. DSWCD needs to discuss future flooding impact to Duval County and potential for a flood study
- 19. Administrative Concerns
 - a. Business Cards – Hunter Anderson will move forward with sending proofs and ordering business cards
 - b. Shared Drive administration – Hunter Anderson will present a brief training at next planning meeting

Meeting Adjourned: 5:24 p.m.