**Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Feb 3rd, 2021 4:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Teleconference**

**Supervisors in Attendance**: Jennifer Casey (Chair), James Cook (Vice Chair) Allen Moore (Treasurer), John Barnes (Secretary), Ashantae Green (Historian)

**Affiliate Members**: Joshua Rosenberg (NativeJax)

**Old Business:**

* 2020 Annual Report – Supervisor A. Moore agreed to discuss plans and completion with Affiliate Tiffany Bess, ASAP.
* 2021 Supervisor Training – Supervisors who have not taken Annual Ethics training was encouraged to do so, at their earliest convenience.
* 2020 State Speech & Poster Awards – Chair J. Casey indicated that she had spoken to Past Supervisor H. Anderson who confirmed, to her, that the subject awards had been mailed to the respective students.
* Website/Email Updates – Chair J. Casey confirmed that Past Supervisor H. Hunter has agreed to complete this task.
* Bank Account Update – Supervisor A. Moore agreed to communicate with past Supervisor H. Anderson to update Bank account, as necessary, to reflect changes in memberships and election of new officers. Supervisor Hunter Anderson should be removed from account. Supervisors Jennifer Supervisor and A. Moore Casey should be added and allowed full access to account.
* 2021 NACD Annual meeting – All Supervisors were encouraged to register, if interested, at their own expense, at $ 50.00 each. They will be reimbursed with documentation of registration.
* Jacksonville Zoo Educator Open House – Supervisor A. Green to present at this event.

**Committee Reports:**

* 2021 NACD Urban Agriculture Grant/Resolution –

1. Affiliate A. Rosenberg reported on recent update/revisions.
2. Need more by-in from the surrounding Communities/Neighborhood.
3. Need more emphasis on educational programs and security.
4. All food expenses will be deleted from Grant proposal,
5. Reviewed other amendments, support letters, etc.
6. The City Council representative should be contacted and made aware of the proposed Grant proposal.
7. The COJ Parks and Recreation Director indicated his approval, with recommended changes.
8. The Board approved an official Resolution, for the Grant proposal.
9. All necessary additions and edits will be finalized by?
10. The Grant proposal will be amended, as approved and submitted, before the deadline.

* 2021 Fred B. Miller, Jr. Regional Envirothon – After further discussion and consideration the Board regretfully approved the cancellation of the 2021 Envirothon, due to the unprecedented threat of COVID-19. Another smaller event will be considered, if possible.

**Volunteer District Aid position:**

* Provision was made to allow Ms. Katrina Faison the opportunity to interview for our Volunteer District Aid position, via Zoom. She shared her desire to be considered for the position. She shared her experiences and other credentials, in addition to her Resume (see attached). She was informed that we would review her credentials and respond to her, at a later date.
* 2021 Speech & Poster Contest – The Board discussed potential Contest date and deadline. The tentative Contest date is set for March 17, 2021. The registration deadline is March 7, 2021. This year, the Poster and Speech contests will be held electronically. The Speech contest will be held through the submission of videoed presentations. Supervisor A. Green will update promotional documents and present, where appropriate.
* 2021 Friends of NACD Grant – The Duval SWCD submitted a proposal for this Grant. Final decisions for this Grant will be made, at the 2021 NACD meeting, on 2/9/2021.
* Local Working Group – The Board was informed of recently released FY 2021 Local Working Group (LWG) Process and Deadlines, from the USDA NRCS. The Duval SWCD Board hosted their last (LWG) meeting, on November 2020 and plan to submit the results of that meeting, with the assistance of the USDA NRCS District Conservationist. Need approved minutes from past supervisor H. Anderson to complete the requested process and meet established deadlines. Need to invite the local County Forester to provide input on local Forestry concerns and needs. Supervisor A. Green indicated that she would like to include recommendations from our annual Start Farming event in addition to identified Urban Conservation resource concerns.
* Other Reports -?

**New Business:**

* 2021 Budget – Tabled until next meeting.
* 2021 Stewardship week April 25 – May 2, 2021 – Plan to recognize this event with the Urban Agriculture and Friends of NACD Grants. Need to request Resolution from the COJ City Council.
* JEPD Final Grant Disbursement – The final issue of the three-year Grant is pending disbursement. Supervisor A. Moore will arrange to set up electronic provisions to allow for this process. We also discussed options for a new request for another grant from the same source. This will be further discussed, in a future meeting.
* MOSH Boy Scout Citizenship Workshop – Supervisor J. Casey, Chair will present at this venue, on-line, on 2/6/2021, at 10:00 a.m.
* Other new Business -?

**Request for Service:**

* Rhonda Gracie – UNF Botanical Garden Partnership – Supervisor A. Moore and Affiliate J. Rosenberg will follow-up, on this request.

Public Comment: None???

**Board Member & Affiliates Comments:**

* Supervisor A. Green indicated that she would like to recognize local Black Farmers during the 2021 Black History Month. She also indicated that she would like to recognize “The Beach Lady” (deceased), as a past local conservationist, during this time. Supervisor A. Moore and others agreed to assist in that effort.
* Board members agreed that we need to do more field oriented/action activities. These activities should be videoed and promoted on social media platforms.
* Discussion occurred in reference to a securing a potential Debit card. This item will be further discussed at a future meeting.

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021. The public is requested to access through Zoom.