

Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District
FULL BOARD
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 3:30 p.m.
Duval Agricultural Extension Office
1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254



Supervisors in Attendance: Allen Moore, Jennifer Casey, James Cook

Affiliate Members: None

Partners: Al Oliver (NRCS), Geoff Sample (SJRWMD)

General Public: Josephine Fuentes (District Aid), Joshua Rosenberg, Tiffany Bess, Rick Peterson, Antoinette Jones, Maria Machin, Hampton Keith

Meeting Called to Order: 3:00 pm

1. Silent Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Opening Comments by Jennifer Casey - The Chair has been delayed by a few minutes and we will follow the draft agenda until he arrives
3. Partner Comments
 - a. Geoff Sample (SJRWMD)
 - a. May had below average rainfall with Duval county receiving less than 2 inches of rain <https://www.sjrwmd.com/2019/06/may-brought-below-average-rainfall-districtwide/>
 - b. Annual report shows 11% decrease in water use over last decade <https://www.sjrwmd.com/2019/06/annual-report-shows-11-decrease-in-water-use-over-last-decade/>
 - b. Al Oliver (USDA NRCS)
 - a. One application for Conservation Stewardship Program, 2019 EQUP Applications eligible: seasonal high tunnel – 1 (not yet funded), Active contract: Starratt Timber and Wildlife, NRCS seeking applicants for available cost share programs.
 - b. Co-op Agreement between USDA/NRCS and SWCDs provided for review
 - c. USDA/NRCS Civil Rights Checklist is reviewed and signed by supervisors in attendance
4. Secretary's Report – Jennifer Casey
 - a. Minutes from last meeting (motion made after Allen's arrival and quorum established)

MOTION by Jennifer Casey to approve Full Board minutes from 6/15/19, Special Meeting minutes from 5/29/19, and Envirothon Subcommittee minutes from 5/16/19

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

- b. Reminder – Form 1 for elected officials is due July 1
- c. Social Media Update
 - a. Past FB posts: Endangered Species Day (FWCC), Save the Date Envirothon 2020, NRCS EWP, 2018 Farm Bill, SJRWMD Blue School grants
 - b. Future FB posts: SJRWMD Blue School grants, 66th Anniversary, Treat Our Teachers Save the Date, Announcement of Affiliate Members

5. Treasurer's Report - None
6. COJ Ethics training – Completed June 5th and certificates issued
7. Affiliate Membership
 - a. Application window open until June 30 and new members will be approved at our July 3 planning meeting
 - b. Our 3 candidates will be asked to share today during Public Comment
8. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
 - a. Allen sent letter informing COJ Emergency Preparedness Division about the program with a fact sheet
 - b. Jennifer suggests we should consider a face to face meeting for follow up

(Allen Moore arrives and requests Jennifer continue to chair the meeting. Quorum established.)

9. AFCD Meeting – Allen Moore
 - a. AFCD meeting registration for July 11-13 event in Ocala is due today (\$100 ea.) and attendance by 3 members is a previously approved budgeted expense
 - b. Treasurer is not present, but an attempt will be made to make payment by DSWCD credit card. If that is not possible, supervisors will be reimbursed for cost of registration.
10. Brochures for DSCWD
 - a. Tiffany Bess provides a draft brochure for the District and requests comments revisions
 - b. Tiffany will send around an electronic version and supervisors can comment by email
 - c. Board to budget for the expense of printing 500 copies (min) at July 3 planning meeting
11. Treat Our Teachers Meeting – Jennifer Casey
 - a. Jennifer provides a Save the Date flyer and sponsorship forms for distribution
 - b. Invitations will wait until after the Anniversary event to avoid confusion
 - c. If there is enough interest, this event could become a quarterly event

MOTION by Allen Moore to budget \$200 for the Treat Our Teachers meeting in August for promoting educational programs including Envirothon

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

12. Envirothon Report- Allen Moore
 - a. Carlton Higginbotham has designed an Envirothon brochure for review
 - b. Allen Moore provides Envirothon Promotion Plan and Envirothon task calendar and notes we are ahead of schedule
 - c. Jennifer provides proof of table cover budgeted for in February and will provide receipt from FLS Banners for reimbursement at July 3 planning meeting (\$182.83)

MOTION by Allen Moore to approve Envirothon brochure with recommended revisions

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

13. 2019 Plan of Operations – James suggests a few revisions as he was not at the 5/29/19 Special Meeting to provide input

MOTION by Allen Moore to approve 2019 Plan of Operations with recommended revisions
SECOND by James Cook
IN FAVOR Unanimous

14. Conservation Teacher of the Year – Jennifer Casey
 - a. Applications have been made available to all teachers that participated in a DSWCD education program
 - b. No applications yet – will send a reminder email
 - c. Applications must be received by June 30, a winner will be approved at our July 3 planning meeting, and a plaque and cash prize will be presented at Anniversary event

15. 66th Anniversary Celebration – Josie Fuentes
 - a. 369 Invitation have been sent, 17 RSVPs have come in via EventBrite
 - b. Sponsors include Apple Rabbit Compost, Jacksonville Science Festival, NativeJax, Soil Life Organics and St. Johns Riverkeeper
 - c. Checks received to date: Soil Life Organics (\$100), St. Johns Riverkeeper (\$100), Apple Rabbit Compost (\$100)
 - d. Allen and Jennifer provide proposed agendas which are similar, so Josie and Jennifer will work on a program using those for approval at July 3 planning meeting

16. Sierra Club Joint Project Proposal – Jennifer Casey
 - a. Postponed until Fall 2019
 - b. James Cook suggests we contact Darren Gardner at 904-330-6070 with The Black Male College Explorers Program at Edward Waters College (high school intervention program) as a potential audience for this educational outreach event
 - c. It is determined that the planned outreach is designed for elementary students, however an event with this group would be an excellent future outreach

17. Start Farming Panel – Jennifer Casey
 - a. The main auditorium at the Extension office has been secured for the evening of Nov 5 and the event itself is scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 - b. Nathan Ballentine (the “Man in Overalls”) and Jane Cant (UF/IFAS Small Farms Agent) have confirmed participation. Susan King (Atlantic Beach Urban Farms) has been invited. Caria Hawkins (Abundant Harvest Farm) regrets she is unable to participate due to schedule conflict.
 - c. Jennifer will connect with SJC SWCD to discuss partnership and see if they would like to invite a SJC farmer to speak on the panel
 - d. Other potential panelists to consider would be representatives from Down to Earth Farms or Congaree & Penn (both are past participants), Alvarez Farms, and Eugene Montgomery (NRCS cost-share program success)
 - e. There will be no cost to table during the pop-up farmer’s market and invitations to participate will go out soon. Allen recommends inviting the Farm Service Agency with USDA to table at the event.

18. Local Working Group – No update

19. Bylaws Task Force – No update

20. District Funding – Allen Moore

- a. Allen states that there is a need to fund District activities as they were funded in the past with a COJ budget appropriation
- b. A similar appropriation could provide for a part-time District administrative secretary
- c. Allen thanks Josie Fuentes for her dedicated volunteer service, but suggests this should be a paid position
- d. James volunteers to speak in any capacity needed to make this argument on behalf of the board because projects need to be funded
- e. Jennifer suggests that grants can fund projects and that those grants could include administrative support for those projects. She states that while she supports applying for grants to fund the work of the District, she does not support a COJ budget appropriation request. She indicates that we have just begun to broaden our efforts to engage new volunteers and to add additional affiliate members to the board.
- f. Allen states that grants are only temporary sources of funding and he is thinking about the future and is considering a request in 2020

21. Request for Service Form

- a. Allen provides a draft Request for Service Form for citizen use
- b. Jennifer recommends that it be converted to a web-based form instead of paper copy

22. Public Comments

- a. Jennifer mentions concerns about sewage overflows from Wm Dunn provided by email. All members have not yet seen his concerns. Josie will provide members will copies of email thread provided by Wm Dunn for future discussion.
- b. Nathan Ballentine has provided by email information about membership in North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce for our review and consideration.
- c. Joshua Rosenberg (Candidate for Affiliate Membership) – Joshua desires membership because he has a love for conservation. As the founder of NativeJax Permaculture Design he works in the field and wants to assist us in inspiring kids and encouraging conservation in the community. He has reviewed our unfunded 2018 urban permaculture grant application and has recommendations for future applications.
- d. Tiffany Bess (Candidate for Affiliate Membership) – Tiffany is the founder of Apple Rabbit Compost, is involved with the Green Action Committee, serves on the Elements of MOSH board, the NFGCC Policy Board and the Community Compost Commission. She wants to help DSWCD build relationships and help us pursue opportunities to partner with organizations that have already been funded for conservation initiatives.
- e. Antoinette Jones (Candidate for Affiliate Membership) – Antoinette is a full-time Watson Realtor and wants to help educate homebuyers about our natural resources as well as provide us with feedback and what citizens know and/or want to understand about our resources. She has strong sales and marketing experience, has hosted educational workshops with VyStar at local libraries, and has participated in Toastmasters. She provides a resume.
- f. Maria Machin – Maria states that she volunteers with Lutheran Social services and suggests we consider a pop-up farmer’s market and educational program to meet needs in communities with the newly-arrived to help them understand healthy food options
- g. Hampton Keith – Hampton is an ACLU volunteer
- h. Rick Peterson – Rick is the assistant manager for Jos A. Bank and is impressed with the work of the District and our meeting

MOTION by Allen Moore to adjourn meeting

SECOND by James Cook

IN FAVOR Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 5:06 p.m.

Planning Meeting

July 3, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the County Extension

- Select New Affiliate Members
- Select Conservation Teacher of the Year
- Budget Items: DSWCD brochure printing, table cover reimbursement, cash prize/plaque for CTOY, Anniversary event catering/event space
- Approve final details/program for Anniversary event

Next Full Board Meeting

July 17, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the County Extension

- Report on Anniversary event
- Report on AFCD meeting
- Upcoming Events: Treat Our Teachers, UNF Symposium, Start Farming Panel