

Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors District Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 @ 3:00 pm
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
13138 Lewis Gallagher Road
Dover, Florida 33527



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Introduce Board Members and the Public – *Public Comment*
Minutes of March 3, 2023 Board Meeting – *Chairman Mark Proctor*
Financial Report - *Treasurer Myke Morris*
Introduction and Report by Temporary Legal Counsel Gregory Hearing of *Gray Robinson*
FDACS Update - *Matt Warren, Environmental Manager*
SWFWMD Farms Program – *Jeff Whealton, Ken Griner, Thomas Stevens, Chaz LaRiche*
Agribusiness Development Report - *Simon Bollin, Agribusiness Development Manager*
NRCS District/Area Report – *Printed Report. Staff Unavailable*
Request for Non-Agenda Items – *Chairman, Mark Proctor*

BUSINESS AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Betty Jo Tompkins

- Review of NACD Fly-in to Washington, DC March 21 – 23 by participants Proctor, Morris and Tompkins. Visits included meetings with Congresswoman Laurel Lee, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Congresswoman Kat Cammack and Congressman Dan Crenshaw, as well as meetings with staff from Congresswomen Anna Paulina Luna and Kathy Castor's offices, and staff from Congressmen Scott Franklin, Darren Soto and Vern Buchanan's offices. Participated in NACD Breakfast/Briefing and Evening Reception. HSWCD provided each Congressional office with a "Year in Review" book of 2022 local district activities, as well as briefing materials on the Farm Bill*, Appropriations, Forestry and Wildfires, Wildlife and Climate Change. Post travel action includes letters to all participating Congressional offices; as well as news articles on visit and position of HSWCD (if taken by Board). * The Farm Bill is currently being debated in Congress and will be up for final approval during 2023, as it is taken up only once every 5 years.
- Action Item – Resolution supporting enhanced funding (1.2 billion) for conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill, as well as other issues related to Farm Bill. Staff Recommendation: HSWCD, as the only District from Florida represented in DC, except AFCD President Buck Carpenter, adopt a resolution regarding the Farm Bill and submit to the AFCD quarterly meeting on April 7 to encourage all Florida Conservation Districts to contact their Congressional offices at this critical time to garner support for conservation elements in the Farm Bill.
- Update on State Legislative Issues: Following potential legislation prohibiting the purchase of Florida agricultural lands by hostile foreign entities, as well as other legislation pertaining to agriculture.
- Review of completed/submitted Audit.
- Review of Florida Strawberry Festival – March 2 – 12, 2023. HSWCD had educational exhibits in the Grimes (Livestock) Building (complimentary space); participated in the Farm Credit Breakfast and Grand Parade Luncheon

- Review of Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon – April 12, 2023, The Regent
- Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge – April 16 – May 6, 2023 - Multiple programs, projects and activities throughout Tampa Bay, involving businesses, churches, educational institutions, governmental entities, schools, youth groups and others executing road and river clean-ups; recycling of paper, plastics and electronics, planting of butterfly and other pollinator gardens; community and school gardens and a myriad of other programs, projects and activities
- Mini-Grants – Sixteen youth groups selected for 2023 mini-grant awards from 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth for \$250.00 each for youth conservation programs, projects, and activities. Program open to K-12 students (minimum 4 students with 1 adult) enrolled in public, private, parochial, charter, home or virtual school programs in Hillsborough County, including school classes, youth organizations and church groups. Recipients to be recognized at Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon
- Scholarship Program – Winners of the Michael Hepburn Memorial Scholarship and Roy Gene Davis Scholarship (\$1,000. each) to be recognized at H 100 Con Challenge Luncheon.. Eligible students must be junior or senior in high school or first year postsecondary education during 2022 – 2023 school year and planning to pursue a career in agriculture, conservation or environmental sciences.
- Spring AgVenture –April 18 – 21, 2023- “Bees, Bats, Birds, Butterflies – Our Perfect Pollinators”
- EPC “Clean Air Fair - , May 4, 2023 - Tampa
- Agenda Request by Supervisor Gill – Roles and performance of staff and/or Executive Director
- Update on joint grant with City of Tampa, Coalition of Community Gardens and HSWCD.
- Other: ITF article on HSWCD Fly-in and Farm Bill; FCDEA – Participated in monthly meetings, etc.; Coalition of Community Gardens – Continued participation; Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation – Participated in Board meetings, etc.; Hillsborough County Fair Executive Board and Board; Center Place Board and Community Roundtable Board; Rotary Brandon Global ECO and Rotary ESRAG – Participated in numerous conservation programs; Greater Plant City Chamber Ag Com, Greater Riverview Chamber, Tampa Bay Beekeepers
- Public Correspondence, Upcoming Events, Announcements
- Next Board Meeting – _____
- Adjournment and Dinner

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- * March 29, 2023 – 3:00 pm - HSWCD Board Meeting, Florida Strawberry Growers Association, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road, Dover
- * April 7, 2023 – HSWCD Workshop
- * April 12, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge Kickoff Luncheon
- * April 16 – May 6, 2023 – Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge
- * April 18 – 21. 2023 – Spring AgVenture / HSWCD Presenter – Florida State Fairgrounds
- * April 22 – Earth Day
- * April 30 – May 7, 2023 – National Soil Stewardship Week
- * May 4, 2023 – EPC Clean Air Fair -/ HSWCD Exhibit – Tampa



Thanks for your commitment to conservation and our Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.....Leading for Tomorrow! Betty Jo Tompkins