**Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting**

**July 09, 2024**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

Board members present: Mack Glass, Tom Stadsklev, Dave DeFelix, Jeff Pittman Quorum-Yes

Absent: Steve Basford

Administrative Staff: Peggy Gilley, Financial Analyst Administrator. Others present: Garrett Williams, Environmental Consultant, FDACS OAWP, Peter Scott Environmental Consultant, FDACS OAWP, Chris Denmark, Environmental Administrator, FDACS, John Baggett FDACS/OAWP Environmental Manager, Captain John Alter NWFWMD, Kevin Warren JSWCD MIL Tech, Gary Chew, NWWMD, Michael Felton, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, and Dr. Sudeep Sidhu, NFREC Quincy.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Supervisor Glass welcomed attendees

Supervisor Pittman made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to accept the minutes for the Board Meeting on 6/11/24 as read, seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

**NWFWMD Report:** Captain John Alter let the group know that DEP has a water quality grant with a deadline of 7/15/24, it is for Spring restorations, etc. Captain Alter gave the floor to Gary Chew to let the group know they are planning a meeting in August to rework the ag program. Gary will get the meeting info to Miss Peggy to forward to the board.

**NRCS Report:** Michael reports that in the requests fortechnical assistance, there were 4 inquiries about fencing, grass planting, tree planting, water development, and basic information on conservation assistance. 5 field visits to certify practices and more scheduled in the next few weeks. In Conservation Planning assistance, Cindy and Randall are working on field visits to plan, certify practices, develop engineering designs, map guidance, eligibility, and application requirements. There is a total of 12 applications. EQIP Contract has 72 existing contracts and 25 new ones. No new payments, 3 upcoming. Modifications completed on contracts: 3 completed/2 pending signatures. CSP-GCI Contract-technical assistance, a total of 21 existing contracts, 3 new. All payments and contract management have been completed for the FY. Jackson County NRCS totals for EQIP 2024 = $1,925,015. With pending funds of $484,507. That total is $2,409,522. Funds lost due to landowner changing decisions or not complying-$117,680. Overall = $2,605,695. Supervisor Glass inquired about the results of the Local Working Group, and Michael replied that the report had been filed.

Our guest today is Dr. Shaheed Sidhu. Agronomist at the NFREC in Quincy. Dr. Sidhu gave the group a brief history of how he landed at the Quincy NFREC and invited everyone to the Field Day in

Quincy on 7/22 featuring Corn & Cotton trials. It begins at noon; they are seeking sponsors for

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presenters and lunch. Peggy will forward the flier for the event to everyone.

**BMP Report**: John let the group know that Chris planned to be here today but isn’t feeling well. John did not bring a printout for this meeting because there has been no change since the last meeting. Last week they had meetings in Tallahassee, and they found a way to renew & not close the Cost Share contract, there will be some changes, and Misty will need them signed and sent back ASAP. It looks like there will be a 3-tier range for Cost Share. A 65% tier with no data from the producer. A 75% with 3 years of data and 90% payout for 6 years of data. At this time, he is unsure of what the data will be. The new cap will be $150,000-not sure how that is going to go against the advance money. S&W audits will be due by 8/15, used to be in September. They were trying to have an online application ready, but it was not. It might be rolled out later. Supervisor Glass commented on his concerns with the $150K cap and a $174K advance. We’ll have 4 BMP employees and only be able to work with one producer at a time. There will need to be a lot of communication between John and Miss Peggy to stay within our cash flow. This is not a new contract, it is a continuation of the old one, that will be amended. Hopefully, within the next couple of weeks, we’ll see it.

There was some discussion regarding the deer problem, they have increased in numbers and are taking out acres of harvest from the farmers. A county to the west has implemented tall fencing, but the thought among the group is that it is a program for feral hogs, not deer. Deer management needs to be implemented asap.

**MIL Report:** Rex is out preparing for his surgery this week, Kevin reported that they’ve finished the quarter. Peggy got the invoice done without issues, all good with MIL.

**Financial Report:** Supervisor Stadsklev and Peggy let the board know that the statements for the four accounts are in their packets with a breakdown. We have had communications with the state regarding the contract. Since they are looking into continuing it, we won’t have to send back the $11K. Peggy asked John why Misty emailed all the admins about invoices that were being reimbursed to restock their advances but none of Jacksons were on that list. No one has answers until that contract continuation is complete. Tom brought up the audit and the findings. Mr. Mack said he is not surprised; we keep getting hit with the same findings due to our staffing issues. When the new D.C is hired and is working together with Peggy, who now has experience with both sides of the admin positions, we will overcome those issues. The District Coordinator position posted by the county closed yesterday, Wilanne will get with Supervisor Glass to do the interviews. Tom let the board know that he still feels that his time as the treasurer is ending, and he would like it if Supervisor Pittman would be the next in line. Clay was supposed to get back to us on the statute's timing for new officers, but he is not present today. David said that Clay texted and would not be here today, they’ll credit us. Peggy will double-check the Outlook reminders and add his email. With no other questions about the financial report, Supervisor DeFelix made the motion to accept the Financial Report seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

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**Interim District Coordinator Report:** Peggy let the board know we have checks to sign including the invoice from Grimsley for the audit. Peggy also inquired of John if there would be an FDACS computer and phone arriving anytime, we haven’t heard anything from the state. John will check on that. Otherwise, still doing both jobs until relief is hired. Miss Peggy let the group know that there is an elevator, if anyone needs to use it just call her from the parking lot and she will meet you down there with the lift.

**Supervisor Reports:** Supervisor Glass reports that the county is working with us to replace the open position. In the OPPAGA report, one of our hits is for no MOU for the employee or our office space with them. Wilanne will make sure that gets done and sent to us. Regarding office space, we think we have a space for Peggy at the extension office and are working on that. James Fort called regarding money with the RESTORE contract. There is about $270K available, and it will not only be for contracts to convert from diesel to electric like it was. There will be some other cost-share items covered too. Supervisor Pittman asked if it would continue to convert diesel to electric, yes-it will, there was discussion if that would be with an audit or not. Supervisor Glass asked Garrett to clarify that before they sign the contract. Motion made to approve the new RESTORE contract made by Supervisor Stadsklev, seconded by Supervisor Pittman, carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pittman reports he echoes the deer conversation, it’s bad. Representatives are involved in conversations in Tallahassee along with FWC. West, TX had a problem, now Texas has a food drop-off program to feed the needy with deer meat that has helped with that.

**Old Business:** OPPAGA Report. There are concerns, Supervisor Glass asked the board members to please review it because we will discuss it at the next meeting. We did pretty well compared to other districts we have heard from. BMP Tech Applications were passed to the board members to look over.

Supervisor Stadsklev referred to the minutes from last month regarding AFCD.

Supervisor Basford was going to speak to their President, Buck Carpenter, Steve isn’t here this morning, so we don’t know if that conversation has happened yet.

**New business:** Budget Workshop. Peggy offered to have a draft budget for the board at the next meeting. The board agreed, and we will go from there. OPPAGA, all Supervisors please look it over, and we will share at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

**8/14/2024: Motion to approve the minutes made by Supervisor Pittman, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix-Carried unanimously.**