Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting

September 07, 2023

8:00 a.m.

UF/IFAS-Clover Room

Board members present: Steve Basford, Tom Stadsklev, Jeff Pittman = Quorum

Absent: Mack Glass, Dave DeFelix

Administrative Staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson & Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams, JSWCD BMP Tech, Peter Scott, Environmental Consultant- FDACS, Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz, NRCS District Conservationist, Captain John Alter, & Sydney Bunch, NWFWMD, Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Extension Director, and Guest: Caroline Chappell for Panhandle Youth Expo.

Supervisor Basford called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Supervisor Basford welcomed attendees and guests.

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

Supervisor Pittman made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Carried unanimously.

BMP Report: Garrett reported that they are moving along and will speak about the JCSO Golf Classic later in the meeting.

NWFWMD Report: Captain Alter introduced Sydney Bunch, NWFWMD's new External Affairs Specialist.

Captain Alter mentioned an email that there will be another step to help clean up local streams. He will get that to Peggy to share. Also the email, copy in packets, regarding the 10/10 Florida Forests and Water Forum 2023 to register for that. Miss Sydney addressed the group letting them know that the Ag Program has experienced a lot of employee changes. They have two new guys; she will send their info to Peggy to share. Sydney is getting them acclimated and will bring them to a meeting soon. Supervisor Pittman encouraged them to follow up on contracts not serviced in over a year. Sydney replied they are aware and are beginning that work.

UF/IFAS Report: Doug reported there have been changes, but progress is slow. Today or tomorrow the ad for a new 4-H Agent will be posted, and our new Hort agent, Abbie Payne has started and is off to a good start. They are winding up on trials and revamping old research. He asked the group to save the date for the Farm City Banquet on 11/14, last year The district was a sponsoring agency and they asked for us to partake in that again,

MIL Report: Rex reported they had a budget meeting that went well. They are looking to swap out their camper shell for a different system that will lock up their tools better. They asked if that gets approved, what to do with the shell. Alisha let the group know that since FDACS paid for it, they will send out to the other FDACS offices that it is available if they want it. Doug suggested they speak to James Pilcher the Director of the office in Cottondale. It is an FDACS office that has a fenced area with a locked gate where they might be able to put it for 30 days or so. Rex will investigate that.

Financial Report: Alisha reported that there are two financial reports because we did not have the meeting in August, so we have July and August reports. Office of Energy made a big payout in August and a smaller one will be in soon. The budget meeting with MIL was only for expenditures, not their pay or benefits. A motion to accept the July and August financial reports was made by Supervisor Pittman and seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Carried unanimously.

District Coordinator Report: Peggy let the board know that there are checks to sign at the end of the meeting, as well as a large packet of forms from the bank that requires all their signatures. In the Supervisor packets, there is a copy of an email and agenda from Dr. Andrea Albertin regarding the Gulf Partnership Conference on 10/19 & and 10/20 in Pensacola. Peggy asked the Supervisors if they are going and if the group thought any of the staff should go to let her know. Also in the packet, there is a thank you with pictures for helping with Scout School at the end of July. The kids were able to see a lot of different ag career opportunities. I will be taking vacation time, leaving early tomorrow and be off all next week.

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NRCS Report: Brendaly thanked Miss Peggy for all the help she provides in the NRCS office and thanked the board for their approval for her help. Obligations are done for this year. They obligated $1.2 million last year and they just closed this year at $2 million, 46 dollars for EQIP & CSP.. They plan to do a lot more next year. Looking forward to 2024 applications, they have over 80 so far, on 10/1 they will begin to work on the applications. August 25 to 29 there is an all-employee meeting in Gainesville. The office will be closed with Brendaly’s phone number on the sign. They will be at Ag Adventures on Friday, Nov 3rd, and at the Farm City Banquet. She will get started on the Conservationist of the Year.

Supervisor Reports:

Tom-Thanked Peggy for joining the Forestry in the Classroom team, and Captain Alter too. They both agree that this is a great program for the 4th graders in our county.

Jeff-mentioned the consolidation of judicial districts. Farm Credit is putting together a letter to Not support that. There is a committee taking recommendations till 12/1. Jeff will share the letter when it is completed. Jeff also mentioned Sally Jowers passing as well as Maynard Douglas and David Wright.

Panhandle Youth Expo: Caroline Chappell gave a brief history of how they came to be after the county fair committee disbanded and asked the board for their support. The Title Sponsorship is still open for $2500.00, and their sponsor letter is included in the supervisor packets. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to pay $500.00 for a Gold Sponsorship, seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Carried unanimously.

Old Business: We’ll table the employee descriptions until the whole board is present.

New Business: Donation requests received from JCSO, the board decided not to sponsor, NAACP Essence Ball, the board decided not to sponsor, and Sally Jowers memorial, Supervisor Pittman made a motion to send $200.00 in memory of Sally Jowers to the Jackson County Education Foundation, seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. was made by Supervisor Pittman and seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Carried unanimously.