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

**November 03, 2022**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

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

Absent: Sonny Davis

Administrative staff: Alisha Dunaway (via phone), Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson, JSWCD-MIL, Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams and Peter Scott, JSWCD BMP Techs, Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz -NRCS District Conservationist, Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Ag Director of JC, Stephen Fulford-Environmental Manager, OAWP, and Chris Denmark, FDACS/OAWP-Environmental Administrator, North Florida Field Staff.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m.

Supervisor Glass welcomed attendees and guests.

Motion to approve the agenda, made by Supervisor Pittman, second by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the 9/01/2022 board meeting minutes made by Supervisor Basford, second by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

BMP Report: Garrett Williams reported the cost share spending is up and IV’s are getting done. Garrett is showing Peter the ropes. Stephen introduced Peter Scott; he has moved to JSWCD from the NRCS office. Everyone knows Peter already and he is familiar with the programs. The group welcomed Peter.

Stephen Fulford let the group know that they have added approximately $200K to Jackson county’s budget.

Chris Denmark let the group know that FDACS/OAWP has suspended IV’s until 12/30 in the areas that Hurricane Ian damaged. The departments are waiting to see who the new commissioner will be from the General Election on Tuesday to take office in January.

MIL Report: Rex Patterson reported that MIL is on schedule. They got their numbers in last Monday and are ahead for this month. From here to the end of the year it is hard going to get the numbers in. Regarding the template, Rex brought the information to us from what they were told at the last meeting. Rex agrees if using it for the state they should put in for it too but will see what happens. Stephen reported that Camilo’s position is that the free NRCS one is sufficient and won’t pay for an updated one. If the Districts want to pay for it, that is ok, but FDACS will not. Everyone agrees we have a template that works, the issue can be brought back up next month, but not necessary.

Supervisor Stadsklev read an article about the electric shock the MILs are exposed to. Tom saw a deal where test meters could be purchased for like $20.00, we could put the JSWCD logo or name on them for Rex and Kevin to use. Rex said they used to have one that NRCS supplied. Stephen and Chris thought that expense is probably reimbursable, a toolbox entry. Supervisor Glass asked Chris & Peggy to get more information about it for the next meeting.

Financial Analyst Report: Alisha Dunaway is at home recovering from her surgery, Stephen put her on speaker from his phone to bring her report to the meeting. The remaining invoices have been sent in. The financial reports have been separated into their respective months and Alisha added the vendor to each entry.

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Supervisor Glass asked what is outstanding to be reimbursed. Alisha replied that she will get that information to Peggy to email out to the Supervisors and add it all up. Garrett has two energy contracts ready to be done. There was some table discussion about West Florida Electric Coop and that the charges the power companies have are a real problem for the farmers. The board agreed we should probably have a meeting with them. Garrett knows producers that will go to that meeting too. Would we include FPU? Supervisor Basford will talk with someone he knows at WFEC. Supervisors Pittman and Basford said they would prepare for that.

Supervisor Pittman made a motion to accept the Financial Report, second by Supervisor Basford, and carried unanimously.

District Coordinator Report: Peggy Gilley reported that we have checks, bank, and state paperwork that needs board signatures after the meeting.

In the past two months, JSWCD information was presented at the Private Well and Water Quality Workshop, the Panhandle Youth Expo, Fall in love with Jaco event, and a Hike & Learn that 2 of our ag agents held. Brendaly and I have been busy planning the LWG meeting. Peggy asked the group to please remember, that we need all of you to attend Thursday 11/10 here, in Peanut Hall at 5:30. There will be a chili dinner provided by funds given from Tyndall Bank, and by Penny’s Sweet Beans Coffee & Café. Penny is working with the donated amount to cater the food for us. If BRM didn’t mention it, on 10/18 we mailed out approximately 80 surveys to producers that have worked with NRCS. We have received over 30 of them back to include in our LWG report to the state.

Last month the board decided that the 1st Thursdays worked well this year, we will stay on that track for 2023. The dates for the year have been entered with Miss Terri, and a page with all the dates is in your packets. Back to the paperwork that needs your signatures, we picked up the packet of paperwork from Peoples South Bank, which needs every Supervisor to sign many pages. There is a set for each account we have with them. This is so the bank can remove Supervisor Hall and add Supervisor Pittman from and to the accounts we have with them.

NRCS Report: Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz reported that yes, the surveys have been sent to reach out to producers for the LWG. Brendaly and Peggy went to the Quincy LWG so we could see one and lend the new District Conservationist a hand. They had about 30 people with good participation and no food/refreshments.

Supervisor Glass asked Brendaly what the producer’s concerns are. Brendaly replied they were mostly focused on invasive species and livestock. There was a representative of their Cattlemen’s Association at the table that spoke about Strike Force-which is for low-income counties. FDACS provides more funding to Strike Force counties. Doug Mayo said that when Quincy got that status in 2016 that Jackson County did too. Brendaly cannot find that information anywhere in her system. Doug said he will investigate it.

Brendaly also mentioned she forgot to tell us she lost an employee, Peter Scott is no longer with NRCS, and that the state office changed deadlines due to Hurricane Ian. Equip applications will be pre-approved in March 2023. By January of 2023, we will know who is selected and not. For the Farm City Banquet, Mr. Ted Bruner has been chosen for the Conservationist of the Year award. Brendaly has asked Peggy to go with Peter to do the interview because Peter has worked with Ted a lot. Peter has already asked Ted to jot down some notes about their farm and family for us to use for their award presentation.

Equip applications; 98 received, working on December CSP payments, and getting signatures.

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UF/IFAS Report: Doug Mayo invited the group to the Farm City banquet, let Peggy know your RSVP information, and she will do the Eventbrite response for the board. The Farm City banquet committee is reaching out to more of the city members in the county to lean on the ‘city’ part of the event. They will have all the awards and recognitions like the past breakfasts, along with 4-H and FFA presentations. The committee voted to return the event back to a banquet from the breakfast so that more people could attend. They are nervous about the 300 total seats, there is no charge, and there are enough sponsors to hold it up. They have a good model for funding. Doug let the group know that we have hired a new 4-H Agent; Carly Barnes Montuani. She already has several clubs starting up and more to come.

There is excitement even among urban dwellers in ag meetings being planned for the community by the extension agents. They really need a head count for Farm City Banquet asap, please get with Peggy. Supervisor Stadsklev inquired about the Farm to Table event he saw advertised. Everyone let him know that is what the Chamber is doing this year instead of the Farm City Event at $75.00 per ticket.

Old Business: Liability Insurance, the board’s policy is one of omission. If an employee gets in trouble the board policy covers because the employee works for us. Alisha responded that Rogers Insurance had reached out to her because there was a policy expiring that she didn’t know about. She is trying to get a copy of the policy. When she does, Alisha will have that for next month’s Supervisor packets. Stephen Fulford said that premium should be reimbursed by FDACS too. Alisha will confirm with Angela if it is a reimbursable employment expense and inform us at the next meeting.

Peggy gave the lobbyist update. Peggy spoke with Laura Bloom at Palm Beach S&W. They have run into a glitch, Steven Hall reads S&W law as we can’t use any of the S&W Districts’ money for a lobbyist. Natalie reads the same things, & says yes we can. Natalie reads it that we can’t use just the government money, but if it is 20% or less of the total revenue we can. They are talking about opening a 501c4 for lobbying. Natalie and one of the Palm Beach board members are talking to US Sugar Co, they may fund her for a year. We’ll be able to see how she does for a year, which also gives them more time to figure out how to fund for the future.

A 1099-PR for districts might be a plan B.

Laura Bloom is off this week & will let us know any updates as soon as she gets back to work. She also has employee insurance information to share if you would like. Their employees are all S&W employees though, county not involved with any pay or benefits, just a yearly check to help their budget.

New Business: Rex informed everyone that the guys will be gone the 15th & 16th to the ICC meeting.

Supervisor Basford: no report

Supervisor Glass: no report

Supervisor Stadsklev: no report

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Basford seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 9:10 a.m.