Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting

November 09, 2023

8:00 a.m.

UF/IFAS-Clover Room

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

Absent: Steve Basford,

Administrative Staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson & Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams, JSWCD BMP Tech, Peter Scott, Environmental Consultant- FDACS, Captain John Alter, Case Pilcher and Gary Chew, NWFWMD, Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Extension Director, Abbie Payne, UF/IFAS Horticulture Agent, John Baggett FDACS/OAWP Environmental Manager, and Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz NRCS District Conservationist.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Supervisor Glass 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 there is a lot going on, finishing cost share up, IV’s are getting done. The board asked John Baggett to ask the state for more funding to compensate for the added expenses of the 5-year Cover Crop contract so we can get contracts in the hands of producers who are waiting to get work done. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to request for the Office of Energy contract to be extended to the end of the fiscal year to get producers through the process. Seconded by Supervisor DeFelix, Carried unanimously.

There was a lengthy discussion about FDACS and JC Cattleman’s Assoc working together to get a portable working pen for association members and BMP contract holders the ability to ‘rent’ it out when needed. JC Cattlemen’s Assoc. will oversee the whole thing, they just need JSWCD to funnel the money through. We agree to that with the knowledge we have at this point.

NWFWMD Report: Captain Alter reported about the Forest & Water Forum he attended and shared brochures with the group, “Supporting America’s Working Lands.” Captain Alter introduced the 2 new NWFWMD employees that will cover JC, Case Pilcher, and Gary Chew. Chase and Gary went over a few of the programs they are working. Captain Alter also reported on forestry in the Classroom. Approximately 400 4th grade students learned about the Goods from the Woods, and he thanked Peggy Gilley for her assistance in scheduling the presenters and schools.

UF/IFAS Report: Doug Mayo also thanked Peggy for helping plan Ag Adventures. There were approximately 425 1st-grade students and their teachers who participated. The positive news is they interviewed 4-H candidates, and are working on getting one of them in here. The Farm City Banquet is next Tuesday, Doug asked each Supervisor if they were coming and if bringing a guest for their headcount. Doug also thanked the board for being engaged in community activities. More people are getting to know that we are here. Doug introduced Abbie Payne, Horticulture agent. Abbie thanked the board for their donation to the Tri-state Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Abbie let everyone know that will be held on 1/31/23.

NRCS Report: Brendaly thanked Peggy again for having NRCS at Ag Adventures. Brendaly had our Soil Scientist Willie Nelson out to help both days. Brendaly said Willie will be at the December meeting to meet everyone. Programs, Eqip and CSP. Eqip IRA deadline is next Friday. Brendaly and her team will be in Gainesville for training on their computer system, traveling Monday, and training on Tues, Wed, and Thursday. There will be applications at the FSA counter for anyone who comes in on those days and the office will be open on Friday, deadline day. Brendaly thanked everyone for working together so well. She has taken a position at the Area Office, she is the new Area Program Specialist. No start date yet.

MIL Report: Rex reported that all is going well. They are planning ahead for their numbers with the holidays coming up. They had state departments out one day to show them what the MIL’s do, said that went well. ICC meeting is next week. They have received the draft of their new contract. They are working with a soil and water district employee to fine-tune the wording. That will be turned in today.

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Financial Report: Alisha reported that the team attended the MIL tour day and Moultrie for the Expo. Alisha let the board know that in their packets they have the proposed budget for next year. This month we look to see if we need to make any changes according to what has been spent so far. We are doing great so Supervisor Stadsklev made a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2024, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor Stadsklev made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.

District Coordinator Report: Peggy let the board know that there are checks to sign at the end of the meeting. Peggy passed around a card for Sonny Davis for everyone to sign. He has had another surgery and is recovering in Dothan. We already went over the Farm City Banquet, Forestry in the Classroom, and Ag Adventures. It has been very busy! We have a request from St. James A.M.E. church for a food and toy drive in your packets. We received the NACD yearly membership form. Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to send the minimum to be members, Supervisor Stadsklev seconded the motion. Carried unanimously. The FL DEO Special District Accountability Program form has been sent in, the Commission of Ethics yearly update has been completed, we are compliant with both, and the Records Management Compliance Statement has been signed today and will be sent to the state after the meeting. Peggy let the group know that after she gets the minutes done today, she is taking a ½ day off, tomorrow is a paid holiday, and she is taking Monday off as well. Will be back in the office on Tuesday. Lastly, we received a thank you card for PYE, that was passed around.

Supervisor Reports:

Mack- no report.

Tom- would like to know if there is anything we can do to help the farmers that have converted diesel to electric with the demand charges. Steve and Jeff were working on that.

Jeff- no report

Dave – no report.

Old Business: Employee Job Descriptions

5% Funds: Supervisor Glass wants the board to think about the best way to utilize the money.

Mack suggested we keep these two here until we have a meeting with all 5 Supervisors present.

New Business: 2024 meeting dates. It has been suggested to move our meetings to the second Thursday monthly. It will help with the financial report and not interfere with a couple of UF/IFAS events that we have had to reschedule around. Supervisor Glass asked Peggy to send a memo with the dates to the Supervisors to be prepared to vote on it next month.

A motion to adjourn at 9:32 a.m. was made by Supervisor Stadsklev and seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.