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

**February 08, 2024**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

Board members present: Mack Glass, Steve Basford, Jeff Pittman, Dave DeFelix = Quorum

Absent: Tom Stadsklev

Administrative Staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson & Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams, JSWCD BMP Tech, Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Extension Director, John Baggett FDACS/OAWP Environmental Manager, Ethan Carter, UF/IFAS Regional Crop IPM Agent, Abbey Payne, Commercial and Environmental Horticulture Agent, Codie Boyett, Interim NRCS District Conservationist, and Cindy Jordan, Conservationist USDA NRCS.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Supervisor Glass welcomed attendees.

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

Supervisor Basford made a motion to accept the minutes for the Workshop on 1/11/24 and the Board Meeting on 1/11/24 as read, seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

**BMP Report**: Garrett reported they are finishing up the last bit of cost share for June 30. After some discussion about the end of the state year and our bank balances, the board let Alisha and Garrett know that they will look to them to watch the Cost Share account balance and not exceed our cash flow.

Supervisor Pittman added that Garret helped with the CARES recipient award process in Holmes County last week and wants to give him credit. They haven’t had one since 2018, two recipients will receive the CARES award this year. John Baggett let the board know that the Cattlemen’s agreement was signed to purchase the portable pen and that Chris Denmark does not have any new news regarding the amendment. Two board members will reach out to West Gregory and ask about the amendment.

**UF/IFAS Report:** Doug reported they have interviewed for the 4-H position. There are a lot of events on the calendar, Abbie’s Fruit & Vegetable conference went well, next week is the Cattleman’s Conference, moving into March Ethan has his Crop Meeting. Ronnie Stephenson has been selected as the Land Steward of the Year for the FL. Fish and Game Commission. Doug and Peggy will be traveling to Tallahassee for the meeting on the 21st to support Ronnie. In May there will be a tour, all are welcome to go. The Cattle World is buzzing about the prices looking favorable for the next two years, and we are out of the drought monitor. Supervisor Glass asked for an update regarding the letter sent to change the grazing days. There was a meeting, Doug will ask Anthony @ FSA and get back to the board.

**NRCS Report:** Codie reported they have received a good amount of EQIP and CSP applications for 2024, we should know who has been funded by the end of April. An offer for a new DC is out, we will know soon. They are also looking to hire a Soil Conservationist if anyone knows of any grads looking for work. Doug asked how

many EQIP applications. Codie reported 123 in JC, + 5 or 6 CSP applications. They are working through both lists.

**Guests:** Abbie Payne thanked the board for their sponsorship of the Fruit & Vegetable Conference on 1/31 with a recap of the event. Abbie requested $400.00 for the board to be a sponsor of the Quincy NFREC Citrus

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Health Forum on 2/22/24. Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to approve the $400.00 to be a sponsor of the

event, seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

Ethan Carter gave a report about chemical labels and how the changes will affect our farmers, and information about the speakers that will be at the Crop Meeting on 3/7 and Peanut Field Day on 8/8. Ethan asked the board to be a sponsor of the two events for $250.00. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to approve the $250.00 to be a sponsor for both events, seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

**MIL Report:** Rex reports they finished January without a waiver. They are still working on the budget amendment, Alisha is working on the financial part, and it needs to get done. Otherwise going well. Doug asked how many pivots were damaged in the storm, Rex reported 14 pivots.

**Financial Report:** Alisha went over the financial report and the other copies that she passed to the board. There is a copy of the Producer Checklist that she uses for the board to see, an updated Emergency Contact Form that we keep, and an updated JSWCD Organization Chart to add Supervisor DeFelix. We are going over our forms to be prepared for the OPPAGA Audit.

**Old Business/Supervisor Reports**: Supervisor Pittman reported on the House and Senate bills that we are watching. From what he has heard they think this cycle will not be successful but the next one they’ll be more prepared. We are too late for a lobbyist this year, but we plan to have the ball rolling this fall before the session begins. Supervisor Glass let everyone know that Miss Peggy had sent a note out that Mack put Supervisor Pittman in charge of keeping up with Tallahassee and Andrew Suskey regarding the Senate and House bills. Let the minutes reflect the decision to hire Alan Suskey if we need to. The board agrees that we will need to be active when the March session begins next year, committee meetings will begin after 1/1/25.

Supervisor Glass added that he will be talking with the legislators behind these bills to get more information.

Supervisor Glass talked about the OPPAGA Audit, it has begun, they sent a list, and the ladies have the documentation to support it. There is one thing that needs to be talked about, there are two trucks that S&W employees use, that we didn’t buy but the titles are reported to be under the JSWCD name. There was talk amongst the group that one was John's old FDACS truck and the other the county bought. It was reported that in 2018 Sonny Davis paid off the county truck. Supervisor Glass asked John B. to check on it with FDACS, there was talk that after 5 years the FDACS truck would become ours. We don’t want to report that they are ours if they aren’t. Supervisor Glass reported there was a problem with the 2021/2022 Audit, but we have confirmed that is resolved. Supervisor Glass has been talking with David Ramba regarding the gift funds voted on in the Workshop, that will be ongoing.

**New Business:** The 2022/2023 Audit is with the auditor and should be ready by the end of March.

**District Coordinator Report:** Peggy reported that we have checks that need board signatures, there is a copy of a letter from Verizon explaining rate increases and a copy of a letter drafted by the FL Conservation District Employees Assoc. that they will be sending to legislators, and we have received a beautiful thank you plaque from the Cottondale FFA.

A motion to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. was made by Supervisor Pittman and seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.