**Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Cost Share Workshop Minutes**

**August 16, 2022**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

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

Absent: Sonny Davis, Steve Basford

Administrative staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson, JSWCD-MIL, Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams, FDACS/JSWCD BMP, Stephen Fulford, OAWP Environmental Manager, Chris Denmark, FDACS Environmental Administrator

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Supervisor Glass welcomed & thanked all attendees for being here.

Supervisor Glass took a minute to refresh the group with the reason for being here. We serve as a funding vehicle of FDACS/OAWP but 60 days into a program the funding is wiped out. The Board needs to be more aware of programs & processes and see if changes need to be made so the district is looked at positively in the community.

Questions:

How is the money distributed and are there any future changes in the process?

All is about to change in November/January.

What about the people that know how to play the program with paperwork ready to go the day before the funding is available?

They are working on how best to tackle that. Garrett has been working on the NOI list to combine producers’ information, so they don’t get multiple contracts written for one entity. The way NOI’s have been done has changed a lot over the past several years. They are aware and still working on it.

It might come down to changing the wording on the application, but again, that may all change when the new Director takes office.

Where does the funding come from? All federal money?

None of it is federal money, it’s all state funds. Mostly from document stamps and the Forever Florida Fund. Some was DOE Restore funds, but that program has been over for awhile now. (except for diesel to electric projects)

Also, the funding flows differently throughout the state. There is more funding for projects in central and south FL because they have bigger projects around resource needs. But, whatever funding is not used, can be used anywhere in the state.

The cover crop allocation that took up our funding this year: we are going to get it back, but not till next July funding pool. Used to be September funding, we have a new 3-year contract for money to come in 7/1.

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It would help the community to look fairly at the district if applications are qualified by the person that owns the NOI. Garrett mentioned that four years ago they had to go out and find producers to spend the money on, now the money disappears as soon as it is funded.

To protect the program to go forward, is there advertising to diversify the funding?

This spring there was a cost share workshop out at Granberry’s farm, explaining the program and showing what Mr. Granberry has purchased through C/S.

Garrett explains to them that they need two quotes and never hear from them again, the equipment dealers won’t take the time with them.

The state is trying to help the producers with the large acre parcels to give the best environmental impact. There is enough funding to share with the number of producers we have in Jackson County, it just doesn’t give much to each and every one.

These are great programs, and we need them. It is a huge task to get it spread around, we want to keep it protected. Thanks for all you do.

The focus has been all on BMAP and IV’s. The BMAP producers are getting all the focus. There must be qualifications, cut offs and limits. There is not an easy answer, but we need something. It ends up all about the acreage. Could be more selective, but it still ends up looking at the environmental issue, and if no wetland, then BMAP takes the priority. The purpose of the program is to protect the area that is the BMAP, but outside the BMAP is not why a producer would not be selected, unless another producer is on the BMAP.

How many acres are in the BMAP?

The coverage area is Calhoun County to less than 25% of Jackson County. Everyone in the BMAP is enrolled, and the producers with high acre counts in the BMAP do take priority. Around 180-183 enrolled in BMAP and 400 total in Jackson County.

Garrett and Stephen are working things out, they must get the producers used to hearing no. After the hurricane and all the funding that flowed hard and fast, they got used to that. We don’t have millions of dollars of funding to work with anymore.

We all have the same concerns, that is good to know. Per capita we have more producers than money. $500K is not a lot of money for this area. Will get the applications in, process to grade and go from there. Short window of grading session. They might tell us we can do that, just a 30-day window would be great. We all have the producer’s best interest in mind.

Thank you all.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Stadsklev seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 9:30 a.m.