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

**September 01, 2022**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

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

Absent: Sonny Davis and Tom Stadsklev

Administrative staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson, JSWCD-MIL, Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz -NRCS District Coordinator, Stephen Fulford-Environmental Manager, OAWP.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Supervisor Glass welcomed attendees and guests.

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

Motion to approve the 8/04 board meeting minutes made by Supervisor Basford, second by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the 8/16 Cost Share workshop meeting minutes, made by Supervisor Pittman and second by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

BMP Report: Stephen Fulford reported that there is not a lot to update, they are waiting on the amendment money. They received several applications for the open tech position. The 1st round of interviews is complete. Garrett will be getting some help soon. Stephen was off for a few days; he is catching up. They are on target staying up with the IVs. Supervisor Glass asked about what was happening with staff at their administrative office. Stephen replied that for the interim they have placed Pamela. P. from the commissioner’s office. She is a good advocate and works well with everyone. She will be in place until December.

NRCS Report: Brendaly Rodriguez-Munoz reported that it is the end of their fiscal year and there is not much activity. They closed the year with 1.4 million for EQIP and CSP. The extra money came in, covered 7 more contracts, and added 23K to make the 1.4 mil. Now we begin 2023, a majority of the remaining contracts are moving to 2023. The contracts will be submitted by January and should be finishing obligations by May instead of September. The team is working hard on applications. The state currently has 800 applications in and they want 1200, so they extended the September application deadline from 9/2 to 9/30/22. Doug Mayo is aware, and if anyone knows anyone wanting to apply for EQIP, now is the time to get the app in. Personnel: Peter is still in Blountstown until the end of September. 10/1/22 the whole team should be back in the office together. For the participants with CSP contracts, they are gathering information for the yearly payments. In August they start asking for evidence of completed projects. 23 contracts are on CSP. Brendaly wanted to thank Peggy for going out on a couple of field visits, without permission, so sorry. Brendaly wants to train Peggy on the EQIP program, specifically the High Tunnel Systems. It is a very straightforward program and is hoping that Peggy can work independently to do those. Brendaly is looking forward to the rest of the year. Remember the 9/30 deadline and by May they are expecting to be done obligating 2023 funding. Supervisor Glass is concerned about Peggy doing EQIP work because we don’t have liability insurance associated with that. There was discussion about different types of insurance and whether there is a policy with the

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county that Peggy would be covered by. Supervisor Glass asked Peggy to check on that with the county and get back to them, so the district is held harmless. Brendaly stressed that Peggy will not have anything to do with the contract work, she’ll be the first contact and a ‘go to’ for the producers to assist the NRCS team.

MIL Report: Rex Patterson reported everything is going good. They got ahead of their numbers for last month. Rex & Kevin attended ICC and were trained on the lateral systems. From the ICC meeting, the guys learned that they are trying to line up all the department reports similarly. MIL asked the board to purchase a lateral mode template for $500.00. The last template purchased was for pivots. All reports are stamped with JSWCD. This template is strictly for a lateral move or traveling guns. NRCS has a template, but our guys have never seen it. Currently, they have 20 producers to work with that they need it for. This is a new version of the old template, more tweaked and upgraded. The pricing started out at $2500. but none of the counties would purchase it, one county offered $500.00, and Matt said that would work. Stephen offered to investigate it, there may be some funding. Everyone agreed that this subject can wait till the next meeting to discuss further.

Financial Analyst Report: Alisha Dunaway reported that were changes in the bank or QuickBooks software and all the information did not port over well. She is working on it, there will be more data entry from what she sees. The financial statement balance is down $100K due to office of energy invoices in process. The payroll and insurance expenses, plus $98K +or- is on its way. Regarding the liability insurance issue, JSWCD does not have any liability insurance for the staff. The policy the board members have is an error of omission. Alisha asked the board if she needs to look for a policy for the employees. Mack said he would investigate that. There was some discussion about different types of policies and what they cover among the group. Alisha let the supervisors know that she will be off 10/12 through 10/14/22 and has surgery scheduled for the end of October, she may or may not be at the November meeting and can conference call in.

District Coordinator Report: Peggy Gilley reported that we have checks that need signatures after the meeting. Peggy asked the group if the Outlook reminders for board meetings was working for everyone. The ones in the room said yes. There has been a vacation planned since spring that conflicts with next month’s meeting, Peggy will not be here 10/5 through 10/10/2022. She suggested since October is harvest time, would the board be ok with canceling the October meeting? Supervisor Basford made a motion to cancel the October 2022 meeting, and Supervisor Pittman seconded. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor Basford: no report

Supervisor Glass: no report

Supervisor Stadsklev: no report

Old Business: Local Working Group- Supervisor Glass stated in the past it has been a small group, Brendaly let the group know that we have been advertising it in the paper and Peggy has gone out to hang up fliers in the larger cities of the county. There was a discussion from the group about how the meeting will be run.

There was a suggestion to send out a survey with a SASE to return it, Brendaly is looking into that.

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Peggy reported that she inquired about the lobbyist. Miss Laura from Palm Beach S&WCD said that Natalie will be signed and in place by November. The FCDEA sent an email asking for questions we may have to share with the lobbyist about Bill 1078. They will get those questions to Natalie to find the answers for us.

New Business: Peggy asked the group if the 1st Thursday monthly @ 8:00 a.m. worked well for everyone and if is it ok to set up 2023 the same way. Everyone in the room agreed the 1st Thursday works for 2023.

AFCD membership form came in the mail. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to send $350.00, seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried Unanimously.

Garret Williams lost his father-in-law 2 weeks before the wedding. Due to the extenuating circumstances, he was given 3 days of bereavement. The group agreed that was the right thing to do. The funeral is at RCC at 11:00 tomorrow. Doors will be open at 10:00 a.m.

Supervisor Pittman gave a report regarding the Farm City Banquet steering committee meeting. There was a discussion about how JSWCD wants to be involved. Doug Mayo has invited us to participate in the event, Supervisor Glass said that we will help with the event. Supervisors Glass and Pittman are on the steering committee. There were some great memories shared about Farm City banquets in the past. The current board members are looking to grow the event back to what it used to be for the Ag community. There was a motion made by Supervisor Basford for JSWCD to sponsor the Farm City Banquet up to $1500.00, seconded by Supervisor Pittman. Carried unanimously.

Request for sponsorship from Southeast Conservation District Employees Assoc. Any interest? We have not given before so no, no interest. We received letters from the JC Times about a price increase. We have been paying $6.00 for our monthly meeting advertisement, as of 9/1, we will pay $10.00 monthly. The check to the Times this month is for $12.00 because Miss Mary went on vacation, so the bill is for our August and September ads.

AFCD sent a request for a 2023 State Land Judging host. The host provides a continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch for contestants and volunteers. Our group declined.

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

Adjourned at 9:28 a.m.