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

**December 07, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.**

**UF/IFAS-Clover Room**

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

**Absent: -0- *All 5 supervisors present.***

**Administrative Staff: Alisha Dunaway, Peggy Gilley. Others present: Rex Patterson & Kevin Warren, JSWCD-MIL, Garrett Williams, JSWCD BMP Tech, Peter Scott, Environmental Consultant- FDACS, Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Extension Director, John Baggett FDACS/OAWP Environmental Manager, and Codie Boyett, Interim NRCS District Conservationist.**

**Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.**

**Supervisor Glass welcomed attendees and guests. Supervisor Glass welcomed and asked Ms. Codie Boyett to introduce herself.**

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

**Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev.** **Carried unanimously.**

**BMP Report: Garrett reported IV’s are going and he has been attending meetings. There is a staff meeting today he will attend. There was a discussion about the amendment the board is waiting to see, John & Garrett have no idea when that might be ready. (Copy in your packets Supervisors) Supervisor Glass asked Garrett and Alisha to make sure the wording is correct, have it signed, and work on helping our producers with the remaining funds quickly. John Baggett reported he did work with the producer to get help on the pivots we talked about last month. That is being worked out. Bonnie with the state resigned last Friday, so the Dept is working out how procedures will be carried through without her.**

**NWFWMD Report: No report.**

**UF/IFAS Report: Doug Mayo reported that the Farm City banquet went well and congratulated Supervisor Glass on his award of Forester of the Year. They offered the 4-H position, but it was declined, so they have readvertised. At the last meeting, we talked about FSA and the grazing calendar. Doug reports that they have put a committee together, and they have written a letter and mailed it to the Farm Service Agency CEDs of Holmes and Jackson counties. The letter asks to please adjust the grazing calendar dates to our growing and grazing calendar up here. A lot of people have been inquiring about a disaster declaration for the drought this year. Doug has given Anthony (Jackson FSA CED) weather data to help report, but the rules changed for that it only covers loans.**

**NRCS Report: Cody reported that they are looking at the new applications turned in for 2024. There are 123 EquP and 5 CSP applications. Several things are going on with how they are working with applications. Act Now with the IRA funds is allowing them to move through the process more quickly. They can go back to the applications that were not approved from 2010 to March of 2023. They are looking hard at cover crop applications, and the producers might know as early as February if they are selected. In January and February, they will look harder at newer applications. They are talking about bringing in a practice for ryegrass. With the money the IRA has that is going to be a thing, any farmers that want that, send them over. Also, they will be doing perimeter fencing. There was some discussion about carbon credits, and that that is more of a forestry practice.**

**MIL Report: Rex reported that November is finished and December is going good. The Scope of Work (SOW) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are on hold, now especially because Bonnie resigned. They need to get the SOW and Budgets done before the SOP. The group is still working on wording. Supervisor Glass asked if there was a timeline, Rex replied with Bonnie gone it is just Camilo and James working on it, no timeline. Alisha let the board know that the budget is good until April and they don’t think it will take till April to finalize everything.**

**JSWCD Monthly Meeting**

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**Financial Report: Alisha reported that we are near the calendar year-end. In January she will get the 1099’s sent out to the producers as well as the files on a stick for the audit and deliver that to Peggy. The financials are in the Supervisor packets with the cost share spreadsheet and a copy of the amendment for the board to go over. The group discussed the balances. Alisha let the board know that John (JP) Fraites is the newly hired Assistant Director with OAWP for cost share. He’ll work alongside Asst. Director of OAWP, Bret Prater.**

**District Coordinator Report: Peggy let the board know that there are checks to sign at the end of the meeting. Ag Adventures and Forestry in the Classroom notes for next year have been made and put away. I am working with the same company that NRCS did to have an event banner made. A copy of the mockup I sent to them is in your packet. I hoped they would have a proof for y’all to see today but have not received that yet. The new website is LIVE and we are compliant!! Peggy went back to our first board meeting after AD &PG were hired and has uploaded all the Agendas and Minutes up to today. Please go look, jacksonswcd.com. In your packets you have a copy of the reminders from the Florida Conservation District Employees Association, we have all the end-of-year reporting to the state turned in. In your packets, there are copies of two emails, one for the 2024 Legislative Day 1/17/2024 and one for the NACD annual meeting February 10-14, 2024. We have a Thank you card for your Ag Adventures sponsor donation. Peggy passed around the card. Tomorrow is Supervisor Pittman’s birthday; Peggy handed Mr. Jeff a birthday card that everyone had signed. Peggy wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for everyone.**

**Supervisor Reports:**

**Mack- There is no information on the legislation yet about the future of SWCD’s. A few rumors are going around. 1 camp to abolish all, another camp to regionalize. We don’t want to be trapped with frozen assets; we need to be aware. Alisha is working on finding out the parameters for how to spend the 5% funds we have. Cody suggested we might cover some contracts that didn’t make the cut but qualify. All the work to qualify is already done. There was a motion made by Supervisor Pittman to hold a special meeting at 6:00 a.m. before the next meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Stadsklev. Motion carried.**

**Steve – a farmer from Ft. Pierce came by his place and from their conversation it sounds like we live in 2 different states, they apply and get selected for almost anything they apply for. OAWP & NRCS say that’s because the areas down there are so urban, that there aren’t as many farmers applying for programs. And the funds that would be left on the table down there get transferred to other parts of the state, like ours to help cover more applications.**

**Tom- no report.**

**Jeff- no report**

**Dave – no report.**

**Old Business:**

**Employee Job Descriptions- Supervisor Glass asked the board if they are satisfied with the descriptions that have been turned in. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to approve the job descriptions, Seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.**

**5% Funds: covered earlier.**

**New Business: 2024 meeting dates. Supervisor Glass let the group know that moving the board meetings to the 2nd Thursday monthly will allow Alisha to get each month wholly in the financial report. Supervisor Glass asked the board if their calendars were open to make the change. All were good. Motion to move the 2024 meeting dates to the second Thursday monthly made by Supervisor DeFelix. Seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.**

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

**The next meeting will be on 1/11/24 with the special workshop @ 6:00 a.m. followed by the regular meeting at 8:00 a.m.**