**Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District**

**May 20, 2024**

**Minutes**

***Supervisors Present****:*  Michael Brown, Karen-Alday Henderson, Vincent Moore, Bryan Baxley Not present: Supervisor Ralph Sanford

***Others Present****:* Edith Turner; Staff, Martha Mitchell; Extension Robbie Jones FDACS Stephen Monroe; Avery Spires, Ted Stansly, NRCS; Guest: Alan Neubauer.

Call to order by Chairperson Michael Brown and Prayer offered by Supervisor Bryan Baxley

The Regular Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 6:14pm. Official Statement read by Chairperson Michael Brown. The GSWCD meeting was held at the Gadsden County Extension Office, 2140 W Jefferson Street, Quincy FL.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Motion to approve Agenda as written by Supervisor Karen Alday-Henderson, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley. Motion carries 4-0.*

**Review and approval of April 15, 2024, Minutes.**

*Motion to approve minutes by Supervisor Vincent Moore seconded by Supervisor Karen Alday-Henderson.*

*Motion carries 4-0.*

**Treasurers’ Reports:**

**GSWCD**

* As of May 20, 2024, the ending balance in the GSWCD regular account is $139,323.90.

**FDACS**

* As of May 20, 2024, the ending balance in Cost Share Contract #27701 is $129,283.19
* As of May 20, 2024, the ending balance in Technician Account Contract #26229 is $7,217.34

*Motion to file for audit, the Treasure’s reports as written with the exceptions of any corrections as discussed for GSWCD Regular & FDACS Accounts by Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Karen Alday-Henderson. Motion carries 4-0.*

**Reports:**

**NRCS**

* Have gotten initial round of EQIP pre-approvals as of May16th 2024 for Gadsden County in addition to the one high tunnel pre-approved earlier in the spring, we; 26 others forestry related. This was due mostly to the Local Working Group resource concerns last year. EQIP must be in by the end of July.

**FDACS**

* We have four and a half cost share payments outstanding due to delays. We have five more weeks to get them completed. Still doing verification site visits.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

* Submitted in the 2024-2025 Budget for the Soil and Water, a request for a second part-time position to work the opposite 20 hours of Mrs. Turner, an OPS position that would bring that office to a full-time position. The County seems to be amenable to the request.
* **OPPAGA** Audit complete and report is expected in June or July.
* Annual audit is complete and available online.
* AFCD Area 1 Meeting in Marianna, ethics training from 9am-1pm. Supervisors Brown, Baxley and Alday-Henderson will be attending Area 1 meeting in Marianna on May 30th. Area Speech Contest will also be held at this meeting. Gadsden County Speech contestant will be attending.
* National Association of Conservation Districts (SE Region) June 16th - 18th. Chairman Brown, Pam Tribue, and Martha Mitchell will be attending.
* AFCD Annual meeting is November 1st and 2nd, in San Destin.
* Re-election. Reminder Districts 2, 4, and 5 (Baxley, Brown, Sanford). Qualifying is June 10-14. If doing the Petitions, May 13th or for qualifying fee of $25.00 dateline is June 14th.
* Grants Coordinator has agreed to come and speak with the Board. The Board would like for Ms. Keeler to brief them what it is that she can help them do as far as ag related issues.
* A hitch and lift modification will be installed on Mr. Monroe’s truck by Capital Hitch, to enable Mr. Monroe to haul the drills for maintenance, if necessary, when the Extension truck is not available. *Motion to approve the hitch and lift modifications on Mr. Monroe’s truck by Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley. Motion carries 4-0.*

**EXTENSION**

* June 6th, Perennial Peanut Field Day at UF/IFAS NFREC
* Potential class in September on the use of the seed drill.
* April 20th Greenhouse plant sale was a success.
* The Extension office is being renamed the “***Alfred J. Lawson, Jr. Extension Center”***

**Old Business:**

* Discussed cost of repair on seed drill. The Board is still looking for a solution to who will service the drills.
* Whoever reserves the drill must be held accountable for any negligent use of the drill.
* Mr. Jones is to get with the County Manager, Mr. Curtis to see if we can have someone from the maintenance department come out and grease the drill on a periodic basis.Staff will investigate if there is an agreement between the County and the Soil and Water Board to do maintenance on the equipment.

**New Business:**

* Approval of Jesse Suber Aquatic Weed Application. Mrs. Turner is to call Mr. Fullerton and request an estimate of the cost of the chemicals to be used. After receipt of the estimate/invoice the Board will give its approval of the application.
* Ms. Register, a disabled county resident, is requesting the Board consider a higher percentage rate for cost share due to her disabled status. Supervisor Baxley suggested that we not consider this because there may a lot of pit falls involved. Board has requested that we have Ms. Tribue investigate if Board can rightfully make changes in the percentage of cost share. Also, the suggestion was made that she first put in an application for aquatic weed cost share for consideration by the Board.

**Correspondence:**

* None

**Comments from the Audience:**

* None

**Supervisors Comments:**

* Supervisor Bryan Baxley stated that we should be mindful of anything the Board can do to get with the County in assisting in maintaining the drills. Also being mindful of the fact that the County has other duties they must perform. Expressed appreciation of what the Staff does in maintaining the equipment.
* Supervisor Vincent Moore, echoed Supervisor Baxley’s thoughts as well.

**Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm.by Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley. Motion carries 4-0.*

**Next Meeting**

June 10, 2024 – 5:15pm

Gadsden Extension Office

2140 W Jefferson Street Quincy FL 32351