**Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District**

**August 21, 2023**

**Minutes**

***Supervisors Present****:*  Michael Brown, Karen Alday-Henderson,Vincent Moore, Bryan Baxley, Ralph Sanford

***Others Present****:* Pam Tribue; Edith Turner; Martha Mitchell; Danielle Williams; Donna Arnold; Stephen Monroe; Robbie Jones Staff; Gadsden Extension; Michael Felton, and Willie Nelson; USDA/NRCS; Barbara Myers; Edna Hall-Whitehead, Nancy Adams; Havana Garden Club; Mitzi Lucas; Florida Farm Bureau; Sherriff Morris Young, Colonel Bobby Collins; Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office

The Regular Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. The meeting was held at the Gadsden County Extension Office, 2140 W Jefferson Street, Quincy FL.

Call to order by Chairman Michael Brown and Prayer by Supervisor Bryan Baxley

**Approval of Agenda**

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

*Motion carries 5-0*

**Review and approval of July 17, 2023, minutes.**

*Motion to approve minutes Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley.*

*Motion carries 5-0*

**Treasurers’ Reports:**

**GSWCD**

* As of August 21, 2023, the ending balance in the GSWCD regular account is $124,288.86.

**FDACS**

* As of August 21, 2023, the ending balance in the Cost Share Contract #27701 is $141,589.59.
* As of August 21, 2023, the ending balance in the Technician Account Contract #26229 is $32,310.87.

*Motion to file the Treasure’s reports for GSWCD Regular Account, Cost Share and Technician Account Contract for audit by Supervisor Bryan Baxley, seconded by Supervisor Vincent Moore.*

*Motion carries 5-0.*

**Reports:**

**NRCS**

* Mr. Felton reported that NRCS is done with allocations for this year. For the County, we’ve allocated almost $900,000, close to 50 contracts and in the process of getting new applicants and doing site visits with those applicants for the upcoming year and get them going with EQIP or CSP. The IRA program is still available. Have reached out to some landowners to apply and try to get in to get a contract with NRCS. Informed the Board that September 15, 2023, is his last day with NRCS in Quincy. He’s accepted a new assignment in Mississippi. Avery Spires will be the acting District Conservationist until a new DC is hired.
* A new Quail Forever rep is being hired. Interviews are in the process.

**FDACS**

* Mr. Stephen Monroe reported that its time again to be reaching out to the farmers on cost share. He is caught up on visits and that he has 13 potential cost share projects going on, and only one has an actual application ready to be approved by Agriculture and Water Policy. Of all the projects being worked, no one has provided final information to make the application.
* Introduced Ms. Mitzi Lucas from Florida Farm Bureau District 2. She is new hire with Florida Farm Bureau. She comes to FFB from California. Mentioned that if there is anything she can do to help to let her know.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

* Annual funding request from the County has been received and deposited August 9, 2023.
* Still working on the Supervisors Reference Books.
* Confirming that all Supervisors had done their Oath of Office paperwork. It was confirmed that all Supervisors have turned in their paperwork to the State.
* Reminder that the AFCD Annual meeting is September 26 & 27 in Gainesville, Florida and that any Supervisor that is going to attend needs to register by August 25, 2023.

**EXTENSION**

* Extension Open House August 24, 2023, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
* Extension Annual Office Retreat September 8, 2023.
* Danielle Williams, Robbie Jones, and Donna Arnold went to a conference in Iowa.
* Pesticide training in Monticello in September.
* October a persimmon field day and the Research Center. Peanut Butter Challenge, Cold Hardy Citrus Day.
* Greenhouse is in the process of being completed hopefully by the end of September.
* Master gardeners training looking for volunteers.

**Old Business:**

* Pole Barn Update - Received a quote from Better Built Barns for the extension on the existing pole barn. Board has requested that we get another quote as well as quotes for fencing in the new addition. Quotes to be presented at next meeting.
* CD Renewal - CD Renewal – Our CD was closed with Capital City Bank because they could not give us a rate higher than one percent. It was found that Centennial Bank has the highest interest rate at 4%. The Board voted that the CD should be placed with Centennial Bank for a twelve-month term.

*Motion to do a 12-month CD term with Centennial Bank by Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley. Motion carries 5-0.*

* Remlinger warranty update – Mr. Monroe sent a letter to the Quality Control Representative about the dissatisfaction of the warranty. Received the check August 21, 2023

**New Business:**

* None

**Correspondence:**

* None

**Comments from the Audience:**

* Edna Hall-Whitehead, Nancy Adams, and Barbara Myers from the Havana Garden Club presented to the Board their proposal to establish a gardening program, Sprouts Academy at the Havana Magnet School. The program needs startup equipment. The Board voted to contribute $2500 to startup equipment for the Sprouts Academy program.

*Motion to contribute $2500 to Sprouts Academy for equipment by Supervisor Karen Henderson with the stipulation that they return within 2 months with their progress, seconded by Supervisor Ralph Sanford. Motion carries 5-0.*

* Colonel Collins of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s department. Thanked the Board for the in invitation. Very impressed with what the Board does for the County.
* Sheriff Morris Young. Thanked the Board for the invitation. Impressed with what the Board does in getting the youth of the County interested in agriculture. Plans on attending the meetings again. He plans on spreading the word as best he can in spreading the word on what the Soil and Water Board does.

**Supervisors Comments:** All the Supervisors expressed appreciation of the Garden Club, Sheriff Young, and Colonel Collins for coming and taking an interest in what the Board does for the County in getting the youth of the County interested in agriculture.

Reminder that beginning in September, the meeting will begin at 5:15pm.

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**Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm.by Supervisor Michael Brown seconded by Supervisor Vincent Moore.*

*Motion carries 5-0*

**Next meeting**

**Soil and Water Board Meeting 5:15pm September 18, 2023**

**Gadsden Extension Office 2140 W. Jefferson Street**

**Quincy FL 32351**