**Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District**

**June 10, 2024**

**Minutes**

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

***Others Present****:* Edith Turner, Pam Tribue Staff; Extension Robbie Jones FDACS Stephen Monroe; Avery Spires.

Call to order by Chairperson Michael Brown and Prayer offered by Supervisor Karen Alday-Henderson.

The Regular Gadsden Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. 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 Ralph Sanford. Motion carries 3-0.*

**Review and approval of May 20, 2024, Minutes.**

*Motion to approve minutes by Supervisor Karen Alday-Henderson seconded by Supervisor Ralph Sanford*

*Motion carries 3-0. Supervisor Baxley joins meeting.*

**Treasurers’ Reports:**

**GSWCD**

* As of June 10, 2024, the ending balance in the GSWCD regular account is $137,958.11.

**FDACS**

* As of June 10, 2024, the ending balance in Cost Share Contract #27701 is $65,862.98
* As of June 10, 2024, the ending balance in Technician Account Contract #26229 is $5,004.56.

*Motion to file for audit, the Treasure’s reports as written for GSWCD Regular & FDACS Accounts by Supervisor Bryan Baxley, seconded by Supervisor Ralph Sanford. Motion carries 4-0.*

**Reports:**

**NRCS**

* November 1st application deadline for FY 2025 applications.
* Funding status: Almost have all documents created.
* Some producers still need eligibility documents, working with FSA to get this completed.
* Goal is to have most of the contracts signed by end of June.
* Results from Local Working Group – Have a good mix of forestry and livestock and some erosion.

**FDACS**

* Referred a farm with erosion referred to NRCS.
* Cost share is down to two before closing on June 30.
* Two new enrollments
* Contract for Cost Share expires June 30, no new contract has been sent as of this date.
* Has been asked to cover Liberty County.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

* OPPAGA Audit complete. Waiting for report.
* Annual Audit complete and available for review.
* Supervisors Brown and Alday-Henderson and Staff Edith Turner and Pam Tribue attended the AFCD Area 1 Meeting in Marianna on May 30th. Ethics training was given at no charge. Gadsden County Speech contestant Naomi del Pilar was the only contestant to attend the contest. Ms. Del Pilar automatically qualified for the State Contest in Chiefland on June 6. Ms. Del Pilar placed second at the State Contest.
* National Association of Conservation Districts (SE Region) June 16th – 18th in Gainesville. Chairman Brown, Martha Mitchell and Pam Tribue have registered to attend.
* Still time to register for any Supervisor to attend including individual events/sessions.
* Reminder that Qualifying deadline for Supervisors Baxley, Brown and Sanford is noon June 10th to have all paperwork in to the Supervisor of Elections.
* All five Board Members were in attendance and have fulfilled State requirement.

**EXTENSION**

* Asking the Board to let Emerging Farmers pursue a grant. Mr. Jones and Ms. Arnold will get information to the Board. Soft deadline is June 14th but can submit as late as September.
* Recommendation for the Board to consider in future years that a representative from the Soil and Water Board, whether a Supervisor or supporting staff, attend the contest in support of the attending contestant. The Board has agreed to wait for the decision from the FCDEA meeting at the June 16th -18th meeting before voting on it.

**Old Business:**

* Grants Coordinator for Gadsden County rescheduled for the August 19th meeting. Staff is to get more information to Ms. Keeler as to the type of grants the Board is seeking.
* Revisit the rental agreement on the seed drills to consider putting in a deposit to cover any damage to the drill due to user negligence to cover cost of repairs.
* Ms. Tribue spoke with Mr. Barnes with reference to routinely doing basic maintenance and repair to the seed drills. The Board has asked to have County send us a proposal of how much it would cost the Board to have County do routine maintenance and repairs.
* Jesse Suber Aquatic Weed application. Board approved up to $2000 of cost of chemical, Mr. Suber’s estimated chemical cost per George Fullerton of Wiregrass is $3900 and Mr. Suber is fully aware that the cost share amount is $2000/75% of chemical costs.
* Mr. Jones is still working on a plan of the chemicals on Ms. Register’s pond. Ms. Register asked for a higher percentage than the Board offers due to her disability. The Board will look at her application once submitted but has not agreed to exceed the 75%/$2000 limit. Mr. Jones will present the plan for her pond to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

**New Business:**

* Pictures of the Gadsden County Soil and Water Board along with a write up to be placed in Gadsden County at least quarterly.

**Correspondence:**

* None

**Comments from the Audience:**

* None

**Supervisors Comments:**

* Chairman Brown encouraged the Board to stay active in their community and their districts and thanked the Staff and Extension for what they do for the Board.

**Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn at 7:01pm.by Supervisor Vincent Moore, seconded by Supervisor Bryan Baxley. Motion carries 5-0.*

 ***Next Meeting:***

***August 19, 2024 – 5:15pm***

***Gadsden Extension Office***

***2140 W Jefferson Street***

***Quincy FL 32351***