**Duval Soil and Water Conservation District**

**PLANNING MEETING**

**May 5th, 2021 3:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Teleconference**

**Supervisors in Attendance**: Jennifer Casey (Chair), Allen Moore (Treasurer), Ashantae Green (Historian)

**Affiliate Members**: Joshua Rosenberg (NativeJax)

**Other Staff:** Thea Baker (District Aide), Alison O’Donoughue (Urban Ag. Coordinator)

**Partners**: Paul Gleason (NRCS), Joe McAnarney (St. Johns County Soil and Water Conservation District)

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Casey opens meeting at 3:32

**Chairperson’s Remarks:** Chairwoman Casey recognizes Joe McAnarney who is filling a vacancy in the St. Johns County Soil & Water District

**Public Comment:** Joe McAnarney commends DSWCD on the overall setup and outreach capabilities of the organization.

**Agency Reports:**

* Paul Gleason does a follow-up from local working group meeting in December. Initial allocation for equipment received, which was disappointing compared to last year. 11 contracts funded compared to 47 in 2020. Hoping for more funds.
  + Percentage allocation for funding pools, USDA funds: 10% to cropland, 20% to grazing, 25% to forestry, 20% to seasonal high tall, 20% to ?, 5% to invasive plants.

**Previous Board Minutes:** 1/20 Full Board, 3/17 Full Board, 4/7 Planning, 4/21 Full Board,

4/28 Emergency. Tabled until next meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Allen Moore to meet Chairwoman Casey at 3PM tomorrow at the bank
* No deposits since last meeting.
* NACD funds have been delayed (2-3 weeks).
* $118.24 -> Native Jax supplies
* 3 reimbursements to Jennifer Casey for brochures, Alison’s attendance for LEAF conference, background check, and for business cards, totaling $531.32
* $4,091.15 balance
* Allen Moore to create spreadsheet for each grant, in order to keep a balance of what’s going in and out, with assistance from Thea Baker.
* NRCS Resources for Urban Ag lap top: Paul Gleason to coordinate with IT about whether the lap top can leave the office. Alison to reach out directly to Paul about the topic.

**Consent Agenda:**

Both items were striked for discussion.

1. First paycheck for Urban Ag Coordinator to be paid from account balance while awaiting the

first 25% of NACD Urban Ag Conservation disbursement expected in 2-3 weeks.

* Ashantae Green motions to pay her first paycheck and revisit in 2 weeks. Allen Moore seconds. Approved 3-0.

1. Date of hire for Urban Ag Coordinator moved to May 2 to meet eVerify requirements

* Ashantae Green motions to move it. Allen Moore seconds. Approved 3-0.

**Old Business:**

* Stewardship Week events
* Councilmember Ju’Coby Pittman gave certificate of recognition. Councilmember invited to full board meeting in May.
* Stewardship celebration at Regeneration Park was successful. Challenges and ways to improve for next year were discussed. Tentatively planning next year’s for Saturday after Earth Day 2022.
* Annual Film Screening: Kiss the Ground Screening went well. Website has a plethora of free resources. Discussion made to put that link on the website under resources.

**Committee Reports:**

* 2021 Speech & Poster Contest - Allen Moore
  + This year we only had 5 posters and 1 speech contestant.
  + Allen Moore motions: K-1 category 1st place: Vidyut Arjun; 4-6 category 1st place: Marvel Li; 4-6 category 2nd place: Adwita Pradhan; 7-9 category 1st place: Grace Flaven; Speech winner: Grace Flaven. Ashantae Green seconds. Approved 3-0.
  + How to announce winner: Allen Moore to invite contestants to May Full Board meeting between 4-4:30 and give them option to have prize mailed in lieu of attendance. Allen Moore to handle getting place ribbons and cash available for prizes.
* S-Line Regeneration Project – Alison O’Donoughue
* Contacted COJ about MOU. Getting everything ready for the first meeting in 2 weeks. Alison to meet with Joshua Rosenburg on Friday about building healthy soils workshop.
* Chairwoman Casey met with Carrie Davis with Wealth Watchers to discuss teaming up with their Jazz in the Garden event at Newtown community garden, and doing 45 minute version of the Kiss the Ground film. This could help marketing our workshops. Chairwoman Casey will let Carrie know we are considering pursuing it with her and we will make a decision at next meeting.
* Start Farming Mentorship – Jennifer Casey

○ Workshop – Soil Health & Composting Friday, May 7 at 10am-12pm

* Tiffany Bess coordinating with Allen Skinner at White Harvest Farm.
* Each participant gets worm bin and red wigglers.

○ Workshop – Biodiversity & Permaculture Saturday, June 5 at 10am

* Other Reports: None

**New Business:**

* 2021 Meeting Format Update
  + Motion to revert back to the required in-person quorum by Ashantae Green. Allen Moore seconds [with reservation]. Approved 3-0. Thea Baker to make sure other board members are aware.
* 68th Anniversary Event (July 10, 1953)
  + Ashantae Green volunteers to be point of contact. Reminder that 2 years ago we provided food, but not beverage, had guest speaker and gave her flowers. Suggested to invite some local environmental organization, such as Beaches Go Green. Sponsors needed.
* Other New Business
  + Coalition called Resilient Jax has invited DSWSD to join.
  + Start thinking about new affiliate members

**Requests for Service**: No new requests and all existing requests have been closed. One inquiry came in yesterday of a person advertising a product that has positive environmental impacts. He will be invited to speak at next meeting and will have no more than 3 minutes.

**Public Comment:** Joe McAnarney again praised DSWCD.

**Board Member & Affiliate Comments:** The difference between full board and planning meetings was discussed.

**Next Full Board Meeting:** May 19, 2021, Duval Ag. Extension Office

**Adjourn:** 4:49 PM