

Tupelo Soil & Water Conservation District

April 18, 2024

Members present: Sammy Bailey, Dave Davis, Gil Shealy, and Jerry Gaskin

Members not present: Joe Danford

Others present: Scott Williams District Conservationist, Ethan Sapp Soil Conservationist, and Cathy Davis

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Gaskin. The minutes from the January 18th meeting were reviewed, and a motion was made by Gil Shealy to approve the minutes. Sammy Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cathy Davis gave the treasurer's report, and the current balance remains the same \$20.49 in checking and \$2,143.93 in savings with no activity.

Scott Williams gave a brief review of the Blountstown Field Office. At this point, we have \$2.5 million in 23 preapproved applications. We still have 21 pending applications, that should finish out at around \$3 million for the office. Probably 70 to 80% is still going towards Hurricane Michael clean up.

The Local Workgroup Meeting (LWG) was April 10th. That meeting the three local Soil & Water Conservation Districts for the 4 counties we cover, along with Florida Forest Service make recommendations on the local funding pool. With about all emphasis being put on clean up and replanting timber the livestock and row crop applications aren't being funded. So, the LWG decided to take the local pool of money, which was around \$300,000 last year and make the priority more geared toward livestock and row crops.

Scott also, introduced new employee Ethan Sapp to the board.

Under of business, Cathy Davis informed the board that the OPPAGA Report has completed its initial report. Now, I want to them to review the report and come back for question/answers.

Cathy will be attending the Florida Conservation District Employees Association meeting in Gainesville, April 24th & 25th. Since joining this group has been very beneficial. We are getting information through the association that we should be getting from Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD). We, as in the state are getting no assistance from AFCD.

The Area 1 AFCD meeting will be held May 30th at the Jackson County Extension Office, Suite 3. Registration starts at 8:00. Being offered is the required Florida Ethics Training, free of charge. If your county does not provide free, there will be a \$59 charge to take it. Lunch will be provided by Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District.

A motion was made by Gil Shealy to appoint Sammy Bailey to open treasurer's position. Dave Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 18th.

Sammy Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.