

Nassau Soil & Water Conservation District

January 6, 2025

Regular Meeting - 5:00pm

Investiture of Supervisor Amy Green

Amy Green was sworn in as the board's newest supervisor. Congratulations, Supervisor Green!

INVOCATION: Supervisor Wentz opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 5:06pm. Supervisors Bellar, Caswell, Green, and Wentz were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Caswell made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Supervisor Green. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Supervisor Green made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Supervisor Caswell. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no new business concerning Lake Hampton Dam or Thomas Creek. DC Cahill has left them on the agenda so they do not fall to the wayside.

Creating and maintaining an annual Work Plan. This is a requirement set by the state of Florida. DC Cahill printed examples of other FL district's work plans for the board to review. After some discussion, the board agreed it was best to keep the plan simple and leave space to add projects as they come up. DC Cahill said she'd have it available for review and potential adoption at the February meeting.

District Conservationist Yesmarie Chaparro-Feneque from NRCS/USDA was on hand to let the board know about the most recent programs available and to answer questions.

Supervisor Green asked about conserving wetlands as well as what grants USDA has available in their agricultural program. Ms. Chaparro-Feneque said the USDA has a new program regarding easements. Essentially, landowners can get an easement on their property that allows them to choose the parts of their property they want to develop and which parts to preserve. She said it's a new program and would give us contact info for the person in charge of it.

Supervisor Green asked if USDA/NRCS has any sort of program available to preserve historical sites. Ms. Chaparro-Feneque said she was not aware of any. She said USDA would only be involved if the owner wanted to conserve the site but would not be involved otherwise.

Supervisor Caswell asked if there was a program available for purchasing farm land or farm equipment. Ms. Chaparro-Feneque said yes there are programs available for both. She said there is also a program available that concentrates on improving pastures that mainly improves what you already have.

She said the programs available are not considered loans, they're cost-share programs.

Supervisor Wentz asked if there's a centralized place where this information is available for the public. Ms. Chaparro-Feneque said the information is available on the USDA/NRCS website.

Ms. Chaparro-Feneque also mentioned that our local IFAS office would assist with things like reforestation and education. They should also be able to help with things like soil samples to help determine the best nutrients

for the land. She said IFAS is good with the research side of things while her department can help with the money side of it.

Ms. Chaparro-Feneque mentioned as well that the FL Forestry Service can provide a management plan for people who own property with trees.

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

DC Cahill said she'd filed the annual update of supervisors with the state of Florida's ethics commission.

Individual Supervisor's Reports: None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm.