

Nassau Soil & Water Conservation District

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2026 - 5:00pm

INVOCATION: Meeting was brought to order at 5:03. Supervisors Woehrle, Caswell, Green, and Wentz were in attendance.

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 has not been a new update on Lake Hampton or Thomas Creek in recent months. DC Cahill said she is keeping it on the agenda so it does not fall to the wayside.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Green said she met with IFAS agent, David Hebert, a few weeks ago and mentioned NSWCD is looking for a project. She mentioned wildflowers in the median and asked if he knew of any beautification projects. Supervisor Green spoke to DC Cahill about this as well and she planned a Zoom meeting with both David Hebert as well as Supervisor Green to discuss possibilities. During the Zoom meeting, Supervisor Green said she would like to see a scenic highway in Nassau County and said she thought putting it on US1, perhaps going into and out of Callahan, would be ideal. Mr. Hebert said he would look into it and present his findings the next time we meet.

Mr. Hebert was present at this meeting and said he'd done a bit of research into scenic highways as well as median beautification projects. He said he'd spoken to Emily Bell with the wildflower foundation, and she recommended several native plants that would be perfect for Nassau County medians, including black oil sunflowers, crimson clover, and silflower, as well as others. Ms. Bell specifically mentioned working with FDEP to add plants that remove impurities from the soil pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

Native plants could help reduce costs for the county since they would not need to mow those medians. Mr. Hebert said the biggest challenge we would face is how we would water it. He mentioned there are several spots of wetlands off 301. Because the soil is primarily clay, we would not be able to plant black oil sunflowers, however, we would be able to plant Red Maple trees or Wax Myrtles, both of which can be grown from seed. Mr. Hebert said he would seriously look at the Crawford viaduct area due to the variety of soil there.

Supervisor Green asked about costs. Mr. Hebert said as far as he could tell, the costs are basically the signage and the seeds.

Supervisor Caswell said many companies will work with you and are willing to donate, if you ask.

Chairman Woehrle said it might be possible to get fertilizer from White Oak and if we get that far, he would be happy to ask.

Supervisor Green said she was looking at the area in front of the fairgrounds on US1 as a potential place for this project.

Mr. Hebert mentioned that there is no irrigation in most of the medians in Nassau County so our options become very limited on what and where we could plant since establishing roots requires quite a bit of water.

He said we may want to consider planting trees in strategic spots instead of flowers in the medians.

Supervisor Green said she thought trees were an excellent idea but really wanted to try to make wildflowers in the medians work, if possible.

Supervisor Caswell asked about hydra-seeding. Mr. Hebert said that's possible, but that kind of seed is more expensive and might make this project cost-prohibitive. He said an alternative might be significant amounts of mulch to help keep the ground damp.

Supervisor Green said we would not necessarily need top-tier products to make this happen. She mentioned the mulch plant on 301 may be willing to donate mulch.

DC Cahill asked if it was possible to install something similar to a French drain so that rainwater would collect. Supervisor Green asked if the same thing might be accomplished with rocks. Mr. Hebert said he was not sure, but it might be possible.

Supervisor Green asked Mr. Hebert if he knew of any other counties doing something similar and he said he did not know of one off the top of his head but would look into it.

Mr. Hebert said we may be able to apply for a grant via the Clean Water Act to help with costs. He also mentioned bringing in Taylor Clem, Conservation Land Manager. He is the current director of the extension office.

DC Cahill said there are several agencies we would need to coordinate with in order to make this happen. She mentioned speaking to Robert Companion, director of the Road & Bridge dept, as well as Katie Peay, the stormwater manager for Nassau County.

Mr. Hebert said it was his opinion that we should start with soil samples from the areas we are considering. He mentioned the cost of soil samples and said he would be happy to collect the samples if NSWCD paid for them to be analyzed.

Supervisor Green made a motion to approve funding for the soil samples, seconded by Supervisor Caswell. Motion carried.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chairman Woehrle asked DC Cahill about the ethics classes required by the state of Florida. She said she would put together an email including links to the videos elected officials are required to watch. She asked the board how they would like to view the videos – on their own time or together as a board. The consensus of the board was for DC Cahill to send the email with the links as well as set up times for the board to watch some of the ethics videos together, perhaps an hour at a time. She said she would set it up so the next viewing would be after the next meeting.

DC Cahill said she was attending the FL Sunshine and Public Records Laws overview via Zoom on March 6, 2026, and asked board members to please let her know if they'd like an invitation to the meeting as well.

DC Cahill let the board know that our rent/utilities were just a little higher this month due to the burst water pipe inside the museum.

DC Cahill said she'd emailed the board members a copy of the annual financial report completed by Hartke and Najimy. She also said once she received the annual financial report, she submitted our budget request to the Nassau Board of County Commissioners.

DC Cahill said she would also be submitting our annual financial report (AFR) required of all special districts to the state of Florida and had just been waiting for the review to be completed by Hartke and Najimy.

Individual Supervisor's Reports:

Supervisor Green said she would reach out to Keep Nassau Beautiful in regard to the potential wildflower project.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:40 pm