

March 28, 2017 Union County Soil and Water Conservation District

Present: Laurel Schaafsma - Chairman, Pete Cameron -- Secretary
Duke Emerson - Treasurer, Barton Wilder -- FDACS/WMD Representative
Monica Jones -- NRCS Representative

The first order of business to approve the February meeting minutes by vote.

The second order of business was the speech and poster contest. There was only one entry in the speech contest and no entries in the poster contest. It was agreed that we were late in deciding to sponsor these events this year and next year we would get a jump on it early, in the fall. The single contestant, Trinity Hines, a seventh grader, gave the board a 5-minute speech on the proposed phosphate mining and its negative effects on the soil. It was agreed that the speech was a good one and that Trinity would receive the \$75 award and should proceed to the area competition in April.

Laurel and Duke were able to find sponsors for the cash awards for the speech and poster contests. Laurel: \$20 from Brown Brothers Tires and \$75 from J.L. Wood Resources; Duke: \$75 from the Farm Center. Since only \$75 was needed for the single competitor, the board decided to use the \$20 from Brown Bros. and \$55 from the Farm Center contribution. Laurel would return the unneeded \$75 from Wood Resources, thank them, and tell them we'd coming back in the fall and asking them for support again.

Laurel reported on our participation at the Bradford County Fair, sharing a table with Paul Still of the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District. Her native plants generated a lot of questions and at the end of the day, when three happy children carried off the free plants, Laurel felt vindicated for making the trip to Starke and putting in time at the booth. She said that NRCS posters, crayons, and coloring books were popular and Monica, who was also at the booth, said that BMP booklets were taken up by fairgoers for later reading at home.

William Schretzmann was voted (in absentia) as deputy chairman.

Monica Jones reported that she expects to be offering the Longleaf Pine Initiative again next year (cost share 50-75 %).

Barton Wilder reported that FDACS cost share programs are closed for this fiscal year (ending June 30). The proposal to divide the state into funding areas based on geography and commodity (so that regions would not be competing against each other for state funds) has been put on hold for the time being.

The meeting ended at 7:44.