



**Environmental Protection Board Members**  
David Wood - Chairman  
Thomas Deck – Vice Chairman  
Roi Dagan, MD, Charles Garrison, Adam Hoyles  
Beth Leaptrott, Clint Noble, Guillermo Simon

**Air Odor Noise Committee**  
Thomas Deck – Chair  
Charles Garrison  
Adam Hoyles  
Clint Noble  
Guillermo Simon

**Education & Public Outreach**  
David Wood – Chair  
Charles Garrison  
Thomas Deck

**Water Committee**  
Charles Garrison – Chair  
Roi Dagan, MD  
Adam Hoyles  
Beth Leaptrott  
Clint Noble  
Guillermo Simon

## Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board Monday, January 18, 2022 MONTHLY MEETING SUMMARY

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Wood, Chair  
Adam Hoyles  
Charles Garrison

Thomas Deck, Vice-Chair  
Guillermo Simon  
Clint Noble

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Beth Leaptrott

Roi Dagan, M.D.

### STAFF/RESOURCES PRESENT:

James Richardson, JEPB Administrator  
Cherry Pollock, OGC

Melissa Long, EQD Chief  
Terry Carr, EQD Water Branch

### VISITOR(S) PRESENT:

Jennifer Casey, DSWCD  
Steve Patterson, FTU

## CALL TO ORDER

DAVID WOOD

## INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wood called to order the monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board (JEPB) at 5:00 pm. A quorum was established.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chair recognized Clint Noble as a newly appointed member and allowed him to say a few words of introduction.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of December 13, 2021, Monthly Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made (Simon), properly seconded (Deck) and approved by the body.

## CONSENT ORDERS

### Air/Noise

- None

### Water

- None

## ENFORCEMENT REPORT

TREE KILBOURN

No updates or questions.

## PRESENTATION(S)

- Plans to Meet BMAP Goals by 2023

MELISSA LONG

Chief Long shared information about the BMAP requirements and the process used by the City to comply. She then fielded questions from the members.

## PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- none

## COMMISSION & JEPB COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Waterways Commission** – Mr. Hoyles shared the discussions around coal ash resolution they are considering are being sidelined for now, more derelict vessels have been removed and other procedural and budget items were discussed
- **KJB Commission** – no report
- **JEPB Water Committee** – Mr. Carr shared highlights from the branch report distributed with the meeting packet and addressed questions.
- **JEPB Air Committee** – Chief Long shared highlights from the report distributed with the meeting packet and addressed questions.
- **JEPB Education & Outreach Committee** – no report

## EPB ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Richardson referred members to the report provided in the packet. He shared that Dr. Sonnenberg will present on the mercury study at the February meeting and a potential schedule for rulemaking for JEPB Rule 3.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION REPORT

Chief Long had no report.

## OLD BUSINESS

none

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Funding Request – State of the River Report**

Dr. Gerry Pinto shared information about the State of the River Report and thanked the members for past support. He fielded a few questions from members. Mr. Richardson then shared his staff review of the request, including recommendation to approve the request with conditions (staff report attached). During discussion, members directed Mr. Richardson to discuss future funding with the Administration in hopes that they will add funding for the report to the City's general budget.

A motion to approve the request and conditions as recommended by staff was made (Deck), properly seconded (Hoyles) and approved by the body.

- **Funding Request – DSWCD Natural Resources Education**

DSWCD Supervisor Jennifer Casey shared information about activities that the funding request would provide for and thanked members for past support. Mr. Richardson then shared his staff review of the request, including recommendation to approve the request with conditions (staff report attached).

A motion to approve the request and conditions as recommended by staff was made (Deck), properly seconded (Hoyles) and approved by the body.

- **Election of JEPB Chair**

Mr. Richardson shared that the normal timeline for officer elections was not followed and that elections needed to take place now. The term would be through September 2023. The Chair then opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Deck nominated David Wood for Chair. There being no others, the Chair closed the nominations. A motion to approve Mr. Wood as Chair was made (Garrison), properly seconded (Simon) and approved by the body.

- **Election of JEPB Vice-Chair**

The Chair opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Hoyles nominated Tom Deck for Vice-Chair. There being no others, the Chair closed the nominations. A motion to approve Mr. Deck as Vice-Chair was made (Hoyles), properly seconded (Simon) and approved by the body.

## ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

none

## NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING(S)

- JEPB Committees
  - Air Committee - TBD
  - Water Committee - likely February 28, 2022
  - EPO Committee - TBD
- JEPB Steering Committee - February 14, 2022, at 4:00 pm
- JEPB Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 5:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JAA", is written across the page.

**STAFF REPORT FOR FUNDING REQUEST**  
**PROPOSED FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION IN DUVAL COUNTY**  
**JANUARY 2022**

The JEPB Program Administrator forwards to the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board its comments and recommendation regarding the above referenced funding request.

**Requesting Organization:** Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD)

**Project Name:** Natural Resources Education in Duval County

**Amount of Request:** \$36,000.00

**Staff Recommendation:** Approve with conditions

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The natural resources educational programs of the DSWCD are some of their most important projects. Annual events like **Envirothon** attract interested K-12 students through extracurricular school programs and fulfill their mission by educating future generations of stewards to the land. Their **Start Farming** workshops and mentorship program instill a conservation ethic in beginning farmers and help stimulate more sustainable agricultural enterprises in Duval County. Their **Regeneration Park** green infrastructure and stewardship workshops bring ongoing technical assistance from soil scientists and conservationists directly to urban core residents right where they live and work.

**CRITERIA FOR REVIEW**

Pursuant to Jacksonville Ordinance Code Section 360.601, the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board shall evaluate and consider the following criteria of a request for use of the Environmental Protection Fund (FUND):

1. ***Is this an appropriate use of the FUND pursuant to Sec. 360.602 Ord. Code?***  
Yes. Section 360.602(f), Ord Code, provides for the use of the fund to conduct education and outreach activities, studies, surveys, tests, and investigations which are unique and of a onetime nature. The proposed project meets this criterion as it supports several educational activities which are focused on various environmental issues.
2. ***Will granting of this request reduce the balance of the FUND below \$100,000 as required pursuant to Sec 360.602(f) Ord Code?***  
No.
3. ***Is there a sufficient fund balance available to support the request?***  
Yes. The estimated balance of the fund available for projects currently is \$365,000.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Natural Resources education, primarily led by efforts of the DSWCD, is conducted in various ways. In Duval County, the DSWCD has been helping organize, participate, fund or facilitate the Envirothon for more than 20 years. The Duval County **Envirothon** has become a regional event. Nassau, Clay, Baker and St. Johns Counties now join when their own district does not provide an event. Now called the Fred B. Miller, Jr.

Regional Envirothon, the competition is organized by a team of volunteers including current and former teachers, agency leaders and the DSWCD. Over the last 3 years, the JEPB has helped to expand Envirothon outreach and involved new schools and teachers in the program. The JEPB is currently the primary funding source for the Envirothon with some small additional support from local businesses. The DSWCD also helps host both a **speech contest** and **poster contest** in a topic chosen nationally by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Students can use art and communication to research, learn and create a speech or poster based on the topic. **Land Judging** is an extracurricular activity where Middle and High School students, usually 4-H, observe and interpret the soil to make wise land use decisions. Students can compete at the county, state, and national levels. To participate regionally, a student must first compete in a local contest for their county hosted or coordinated by the local Soil and Water Conservation District. The activity was interrupted by COVID-19 and resulting school closures in 2020 which would have been a first for the DSWCD. The desire is to build a foundation for this event that will last years or even decades. 2021 will mark the launch of a **Start Farming Mentorship Program** to support new farmers in Duval County by providing tours of diverse farm operations and onsite workshops about regenerative practices, including water conservation, composting and permaculture. Beyond the training, participants will network with the local agricultural community and with agency personnel offering conservation funding assistance to growers and producers. **Regeneration Park** is a green infrastructure and community stewardship project which will create a safe space to demonstrate urban agriculture, cultivate environmental stewardship and empower residents to build with nature for social, economic, and environmental health. Educational workshops at Regeneration Park will help remedy decades of persistent environmental inequality which has disproportionately affected poor and minority communities in the urban core. The Regeneration Park project will promote independence to the community through nature and model future resilient park design and natural resources education in Duval County and beyond.

The JEPB funding currently represents 100% of the anticipated project costs.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing, it is the recommendation of the JEPB staff that the funding request be approved with the following conditions:

1. Seek approval of an appropriation of \$36,000 to the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) to provide funding support for their natural resources' educational activities. Payment to be disbursed pursuant to terms outlined in an agreement.
2. Seek approval of the agreement.
3. Seek waivers of Sec. 111.755 and Sec 360.602 to allow for continued funding.
4. Seek exception to Sec. 126.107(g), Ord Code as the DSWCD will be listed in the authorizing legislation.
5. Seek waiver of Sec. 110.112, Ord Code to allow for the advance of City funds