Summary of the Seminole Soil and Water Strategic Plan

2023 (gray indicates - in progress)

* Write our five-year plan
* Private well testing for bacteria, salinity, and 1,4 dioxin
* Track Pollution in Seminole County using DEP data
* Announce the Public Service Announcement Contest (November, changed to January)
* Hold the first Envirothon and begin planning for the next
* Begin the program to recognize individuals and business that conserve water (Letters go out December)
* Participate in community events
* Celebrate the 75th birthday of the Seminole Soil and Water Conservation Board (Tell the story of the St. John’s River and the SSWCD) (October)
* Hold the first (and possibly second and third) workshop for small producers (Invasive species, pasture management, and irrigation)
* Invite other conservation groups to join us for breakfast once a month (Changed to January)
* Deploy our trail cameras to capture wildlife images to engage the public in rural lands (December)
* Educate and work with residents in Winter Springs to do soil testing and reduce the amount of fertilizer used (to decrease runoff into Lake Jessup – which currently has a toxic algae bloom and borders pasture used by cattle) (Starts after Christmas)

2024

(gray indicates - from last year)

* Private well testing for bacteria, salinity, and 1,4 dioxin
* Track Pollution in Seminole County using DEP data
* Judge the first Public Service Announcement Contest and continue the next school year
* Hold the second Envirothon and begin planning for the next
* Expand the program to recognize individuals and business that conserve water
* Recognize the Agricultural Conservationist of the Year for 2023
* Participate in community events
* Continue to hold workshops for small producers (Invasive species, pasture management, and irrigation)
* Invite all producers to our annual working group
* Invite other conservation groups to join us for breakfast once a month
* Deploy our trail cameras to capture wildlife images to engage the public in rural lands
* Hold photo contest photos taken of wildlife or scenery in rural Seminole County
* Hold our first Water Conference
* Hold our first big fundraiser
* Hold beer tasting fundraisers
* Teach aquaponics to youth in underserved areas of the county
* Establish the first urban agriculture project in one of Seminole County’s “pockets of poverty” if funds are available

2025

* All of the above plus:
* Construct bee boxes and decorate rain barrels (both educational and as a fundraiser)
* Work with HOA’s and others to reduce water consumption
* Partner with SCPS to use drip irrigation in all of the schools’ gardens
* Expand the Urban Agriculture project (if funds are available)
* Apply to host a Mobile Irrigation Lab from FDACS

Gaps and Needs:

1. Funding – a reliable funding source
2. Public Records and email support – we need a server with an email address that can be used by each supervisor and maintained in perpetuity.
3. Website support – currently the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD) provides us with a website. They recently went to a “two-tiered plan” whereby they provide more service to districts who pay their dues. We pay the dues and still do not receive the services contracted by FDACS. We often are not able to post meeting notices, minutes or agendas to the website they provide thus compromising our ability to comply with Sunshine Laws. Nor can we retrieve achieved documents to fulfill public records requests. However, to take on the financial obligation of funding a website of our own that must be maintained for decades, without any consistent income, also poses risks.
4. Insurance – Directors and Officers Liability Insurance