



**ESCAMBIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' WORKSHOP MINUTES

**April 4, 2024
Pensacola Library
219 N Spring St
Pensacola, FL
4:45PM-6:45PM**

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair, Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Carolyn Taylor, Secretary;

Attendees

N/A

Call to Order

Mr. Johnnie Odom called the meeting to order at: 5:12PM

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Workshop meeting change posted to Soil and Water website

Follow up on Blue Jacket Jamboree- Mr. Johnnie Odom suggested we take turns giving individual Supervisor feedback on the event.

Mr. Travis Tharp mentioned that this was his first time going to this particular event. He mentioned his observation of vendor tents being separate from agriculture activities. Mr. Tharp agreed that this is something the Escambia Soil & Water Conservation District should continue participating in. Another observation Mr. Travis Tharp mentioned that due to the separation of vendors and agriculture activity, it felt difficult to engage in conversations away from the tent, especially without being clearly branded, so therefore, he revisited an old business item regarding the need for shirts. He also mentioned he has stakes he could contribute next time to help hold the tent down and backup canopy. Mr. Tharp also circled back to a prior discussion about how we could help FDACS while promoting conservation efforts. He reiterated that he liked the idea of helping the local agriculture community with EQIP and CSP at events like Blue Jacket.

Mr. Johnnie Odom mentioned that the proximity to the vendor/agricultural activities did not bother him. He observed that in the past there have been a mix of agencies intertwined in the vendor section. Mr. Odom also wanted to revisit the old business item of shirts and make it a point to design something visible and recognizable from near and far distances. Mr. Odom echoed that he enjoyed the event and that the Soil and Water Conservation District should continue to engage in that event as well as similar activities such as the Pensacola Interstate Fair in October. Mr. Odom reiterated an old business discussion about how he sees our board as a resource to help connect constituents to DEP, ECUA, Ext. office, and overall environmental concerns.

Ms. Carolyn Taylor stated that this was her first Blue Jacket Jamboree event and it exceeded her expectations of community turnout and the educational aspect of agriculture. Ms. Taylor stated that this is exactly what she envisioned her strengths, surrounding being an advocate and support system

for FFA, 4H- Program, the Extension office, and local Ag programs. Ms. Taylor reminded that she has expressed per a previous old business discussion that these kinds of events are where she could see herself best representing the board, and herself in the community as an individual Supervisor. Ms. Taylor expressed that aside from the very windy outcome of the day, and not having a set of stakes on hand, the supplies she brought regarding (the tent, table, table cloth, string scissors, clip board, pens, sign in sheet, plants, and Educational milkweed display) all turned out to be useful in educational purposes and information gathering of interested potential Supervisors, which Mr. Travis Tharp agreed to follow up with. Ms. Taylor also mentioned that although the vendor area felt far from the agriculture activities, it seems tricky to observe at first, but once she was able to break away from the vendor side, she spent a good amount of time in the chicken and poultry area, spoke to parents and their students, and members of agriculture faculty in the community. Though Ms. Taylor has always been on board with official shirts, the act of being engaged and approachable with my name tag allowed her to make genuine connections in her Supervisor role. Ms. Taylor as previously mentioned in an old business item surround shirts revisited fishing shirts with monogrammed name/logo. Ms. Taylor elaborated on this concept in the form of patches, which also opens up a variety of ways to style shirts.

Mr. Travis Tharp agreed on the patches and mentioned that that may be a viable option for the Escambia Soil and Water Board to sell during events. Mr. Tharp also mentioned the popularity of a patch due to the military climate and nostalgia.

Ms. Taylor said that she could do a soft inquiry on patches and various styles. Ms. Taylor mentioned that as an individual, she had purchased a monogrammed straw/outdoor drawstring hat, to add to her Supervisor supplies in the field. She also mentioned looking into Magellan fishing shirts still, with the possibility of embroidering, but since she had mentioned patches, she agreed to see how she can design her shirt with that concept in mind.

Circling back to the Milkweed giveaway, which was something Ms. Taylor came up with it since the Escambia Extension office gave her several plants and seeds. Per the sign in's on the sign in sheet from Blue Jacket Jamboree, Ms. Taylor mentioned her desire to giveaway the plant to Alycia Worley, not a person interested in a Supervisor position.. Lastly, there were 2-3 interested parties concerning Supervisor appointment and position. Mr. Tharp had not yet contacted individuals yet, and asked not to send a list via email, but he does have a copy of the list. Ms. Taylor mentioned he could invite them to a meeting of ours and he agreed.

Updates on MOU and Budgetary Items

Mr. Odom started to talk about budgetary figures of what we could ideally ask for in an MOU request. He mentioned that for both the statewide AFCD membership and NACD we were looking at roughly \$750 and that based on where we are, we should stay realistic in our ask around \$2,000. Ms. Carolyn Taylor, before revisiting the accurate membership fees, asked if Mr. Johnnie Odom was unable to follow up on an old business item from the last meeting regarding checking in with the BOCC pertaining to if we were able to submit a proposal for this fiscal year and what the process would look like. Mr. Johnnie Odom said no, he was not able to fulfill that business item and stated he will put it back on his list to ask.

Ms. Taylor reiterated some figures from the last workshop:

AFCD dues: invoice included next page- Annual Full Membership \$350 + \$150 to the Ellis Putnam Foundation, which supports youth contest awards.

NACD dues: Gold Level- lowest tier membership \$775-1775 annually

Ms. Taylor mentioned again that she would be able to provide itemized receipts such as:

Reimbursement for travel stipend from AFCD for AFCD Fall Conference: \$131 this opportunity was first come, first serve and will not be guaranteed for every conference, as it is based on GRANT resources and availability.

Receipt for Hotel Hilton stay in Gainesville for AFCD Fall conference at the cost of \$335.25 paid for by AFCD via a GRANT they applied for to help Supervisors statewide with limited expenses in this unpaid position. This opportunity was first come, first serve and will not be guaranteed for every conference, as it is based on GRANT resources and availability.

Receipts for Milkweed Display and personal expenditures for Blue Jacket Jamboree as well as provide insight of the resourcefulness of using items Ms. Taylor already owned.

Mr. Johnnie Odom mentioned he could provide a receipt for the AD he took to advertise our conservation district for Blue Jacket Jamboree Lineup. Mr. Odom also stated he could provide receipts for the comprehensive map of Escambia County.

Ms. Taylor felt confident that if we could get the answers as to if we were in the deadline for this fiscal year, that she could help the board compile a comprehensive proposal review with an adequate paper trail showing what was spent, and also highlighting the opportunities we are taking advantage of, and how much more involved we could be in the community and alongside other agencies.

Update on Performance Review OPPAGA- Mauldin & Jenkins

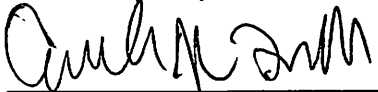
Mr. Travis Tharp mentioned that there were no new updates to his knowledge. Mr. Travis Tharp asked as a courtesy that board members keep each other apprised of any changes in this joint business item.

Mr. Tharp revisited that we were well within compliance regarding our website for soil and water, Mr. Odom congratulated Ms. Taylor on a job well done from 2023 AFCD Fall conference. Ms. Taylor confirmed she is glad it is keeping us compliant and gave the credit also to Ms. Debbie Williams, who was not present for this workshop, or the AFCD Fall conference, but has worked closely with Carolyn and the new website agency we switched to called Streamline to get it going.

Speaking of the website, regarding the MOU that is also a figure we can include. Ms. Carolyn Taylor believes it was about \$960/year or \$80/month, per the 2023 AFCD Fall Conference Streamline presentation. Ms. Taylor believes this will stay at a fixed rate after the current Streamline subscription funded by a grant from the Florida conservation districts, ends. As it stands now, all eligible interested Soil and Water Conservation Districts are able to enjoy this ADA compliant feature due to a funded grant not guaranteed for future fiscal years.

Ms. Taylor motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Johnnie Odom. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:02PM.



Mrs. Carolyn Taylor, Secretary