



*ESCAMBIA  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES  
April 18, 2024**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair/Acting Treasurer; Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Secretary.

**Attendees**

Mr. Robert Bender, Supervisor of Elections Office; Mr. James Anderson, Guest; Mr. Joshua McElhaney, USDA/NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Mr. Johnnie Odom made a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes and the April 4, 2024, workshop meeting minutes. Mrs. Carollyn Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Forum**

Mr. James Anderson, who had been invited by the Board at the Blue Jacket Jamboree, gave a brief background of himself, and he came to the meeting to understand more of what Escambia SWCD duties are.

Mr. Robert Binder with the Supervisor of Elections' office introduced himself and had brought packets for potential candidates along with mail in ballots.

Mr. Binder and Board members held discussions pertaining to special districts and new election requirements under the HB 1078. Mr. Binder stated he would review further into the new election requirements.

Brief discussion held regarding process of outside agency requests for funding from the BOCC.

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Meeting advertisement published.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bank statement was reviewed by the Board. No activity has occurred, and balance stated on statement was correct.

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist, gave an update on the office workload pertaining to Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Mr. McElhaney reminded the Board the Local Working Group (LWG) will be held on May 16, 2024, at 10:30.

Discussion held on what the Board could do to assist NRCS with outreach on their programs and mission.

### **Old Business**

Discussion on the MOU and the proposed budgetary request including the amount of funding per line item.

Mr. Odom made a motion to adopt each line item in the budget request with the supporting documentation to the BOCC. Depending on the timeframe of budget submission, any Board member may assist with the final submittal proposal. Second by Mrs. Taylor.

Motion carried.

Mr. Tharp gave an update to the OPPAGA review process. The firm has requested further documentation on any past year's outreach, projects, agreements pertaining to the district being allowed to use NRCS office space or Farm Bureau's meeting room, and availability of past bank statements.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Taylor reviewed upcoming workshop meeting dates, time, and location.

The May 2, 2024, meeting is planned for 4:45 at the Spring Street library.

Mr. Odom will be in planning for his wedding, therefore asked to move the time of the May 2, 2024 meeting to 3:00p. All were in favor of the change of time if available. If not available, the Board will look at other options.

The June 6, 2024, workshop meeting is confirmed for 4:45 at the library on Spring Street.

Mr. Tharp will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation to the Native Plant Society on July 11, 2024, the same day the workshop meeting is to be held at the Tryon Branch library. The time of the presentation will be close to the time for the workshop meeting.

With all in favor, Mrs. Taylor will see if the space would be available at 3:00.

Mr. Tharp will bring the PowerPoint to a workshop meeting prior to the event so the other Board members can view it.

The Board meet with citizens at the Northview High School Blue Jacket Jamboree and spoke with them about the duties of the Board and the need to fill vacancies with qualified people.

Mr. Tharp had spoken to a couple of those individuals outside of the event, but Mrs. Taylor will reach out to the remaining ones who gave their contact information.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mrs. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Odom. With all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:51a.

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Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Secretary