



*ESCAMBLIA  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES  
February 15, 2024**

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Attendees**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, USDA/NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:12am.

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 January 18, 2024 Board minutes. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Line item added to the approval of minutes.

The February 1, 2024 workshop minutes were presented. After being reviewed, Mr. Odom made a motion to approve the February 1, 2024 workshop minutes. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Meeting advertisement published.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Odom stated there has been no bank activity and the balance posted on the bank statement was correct.

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report. Brief discussion on current programs and office workload.

**Old Business**

Several items had been tabled at a prior meeting. Discussions were held on the following tabled items:

1) Discussion held on continuing to use the Tyron Branch Library or the Global Learning Academy's facility. The Board agreed to move forward with maintaining the Tryon Branch Library for their workshop meetings.

There is a conflict at the library for the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, Ms. Taylor will look at the possibility of March 5<sup>th</sup> or March 6<sup>th</sup>.

2) The Blue Jacket Jamboree will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Board will have a booth at the event. Discussion held on the fees associated with the event and what the ad for the Board would be. Discussion held regarding payment for the fees as well.

Mr. Odom made a motion to pay the \$60 for a booth, an ad, and will submit payment and ad by the required deadline. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor the motion carried.

Mr. Odom has offered to pay the \$60 fee as a donation. All were in favor and expressed their appreciation for the donation.

Mr. Odom made a motion to pay the \$60 for a booth, an ad, and will submit payment and ad by the required deadline. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor the motion carried.

Mr. Odom has offered to pay the \$60 fee as a donation. All were in favor and expressed their appreciation for the donation.

Further discussion was held regarding the verbiage of the ad. The ad will be in a simple format with the conservation logo and wording similar to 'The ESWCD supports/salutes the Blue Jacket Jamboree.'

Motion was made by Ms. Taylor to approve the ad with the simple format and wording. Seconded by Mr. Odom. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Further discussions will be held at the March workshop meeting on what the educational exhibits will consist of.

3) Mr. Odom showed the updates of the GIS maps of Escambia County. Discussion was held on what layers would be beneficial such as agriculture areas, wetlands, parcels, and possible past, land use current land use and future land use areas. Mr. Odom will work on the maps with layers being focused on agriculture.

Brief general discussions held on current zoning in Escambia County, native grass incentive happening in Kansas, and urban density for a better establishment of open, conservation lands.

Mr. Tharp has been corresponding with the firm Mauldin & Jenkins. The firm will be the ones to perform the District's performance review. Mr. Tharp will have a call with them on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to begin a tutorial on how the performance review items/information will need to be uploaded.

Regarding the wake zone information supplied by Mr. Brian Foreman, Mr. Odom made a motion to take the item off the table. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

#### **New Business**

Regarding the AFCD membership dues, Mr. Odom made a motion to table the line item until decisions have been made on the current legislation which will affect the Board's status. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The signed HB 199 pertaining to the Board's requirement of completing a 4 hour Ethics training was reviewed. Discussion held on who may offer this course at a reasonable cost. Mr. Odom will contact AFCD to inquiry if they know of an organization. Mr. Tharp will research as well.

Mr. Tharp stated Form 6 doesn't need to be completed by the Board members, only Form 1 is required. Also, Form 1 must be completed online.

Brief discussion on HB 1075 current status, the possibility of it being passed and the possibility of it not being passed.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:22a.



Ms. Carolyn Taylor, Secretary