ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

## February 19, 2025

**District Supervisors in attendance** Mr. Travis Tharp, Co-Chair Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary Mr. Chris Curb

Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Chair (arrived after meeting called to order)

## Attendees

Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD. Mr. Hayden Shellenbarger, USDA/NRCS.

## Call to Order

Mr. Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Acknowledgement of Public Notice by Mrs. Williams. Quorum was established as present.

## Welcome Guests/Introductions

Mr. Shellenbarger was welcomed as the USDA/NCRS representative.

## Agenda Updates/Changes

Mr. Curb asked that a discussion regarding 1000 Friends of Florida be added under Open Board Discussion.

## Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Minutes of the last Meeting

Minutes from January 15, 2025 were approved as amended without objection. Minutes from February 5, 2025 workshop were approved without objection.

## Public Forum

As there were no members of the public present, there was no forum.

# REPORTS

## Chair Report

Mrs. Taylor reminded everyone to complete the Shellfish Harvester Training course as soon as possible as this is considered one of the Goals and Objectives.

## Treasurer Report

No report other than to review recent bank statement.

## District Conservationist Report

Mr. Shellenbarger reported that staff members have been "released" from employment due to cutbacks.

The Farm Tour has been scheduled for October 2025 with an exact date TBD.

EQIP and CSP applications continue to be processed but deadlines are being extended due to funding concerns.

# OLD BUSINESS

**Landowner Cost Share Program Clinic** has been tabled at this time. Mr. Tharp offered to contact Mr. McElhaney to see if a tentative date has been discussed.

## ESWCD Goals and Objectives Overview/Updates

Mrs. Taylor again reminded everyone to complete the Shellfish Harvester courses ASAP. The board also discussed the opportunity of seeking grant(s) regarding expanding the oyster/aquaculture program in Escambia County. Mrs. Taylor offered to follow up with Kolby Sprague as the current employee tasked with grant writing. -

## Farm Tour

As mentioned earlier, the Farm Tour has been scheduled for October 2025. Details still to be announced.

## Bluejacket Jamboree

Scheduled for March 29, 2025. As ESWCD participates as a "vendor" this needs to be a lead discussion topic for our next scheduled workshop.

# NEW BUSINESS

**Required Annual Financial Report.** This report is due in June 2025. Mrs. Williams will have Mr. Odom review at the next meeting and then complete the report online for the ESWCD.

# OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mrs. Taylor will follow up with the AFCD (Association of Florida Conservation Districts) as we are a member with voting rights.

Mrs. Taylor continues to create an online document allowing us to list agencies we could partner with on various projects including grant opportunities.

Mr. Curb noted that the 1000 Friends of Florida have an online presentation discussing the continued loss of agricultural lands to development with possible solutions/options.

## Adjournment

With no further business coming before the District Supervisors, Mrs. Sindel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Curb seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

\*\*Signed Minutes on File

Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary