



Escambia Soil & Water Conservation District Board
Brian Forman, Johnnie Odom, Carollyn Taylor, Travis Tharp

Workshop Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2023

Members Present: Travis Tharp, Johnny Odom, Carollyn Taylor, Brian Foreman

Meeting called to order at 0905.

1. A discussion was held regarding the roles and responsibilities the Board should embrace and/or avoid, with the following three main roles unanimously agreed upon:

(a) A “watchdog” role with respect to intersectional issues in Escambia County having an impact on soil and/or water quality or impacts on soil/water stakeholders. Priority will be given to such issues that are of an ongoing nature, require research or investigation, and require repeated follow-up on their progress.

(b) A proactive role of connecting people with programs through which their participation will preserve or enhance soil and water quality. Examples discussed include federal programs administered by the USDA NRCS, state programs under DEP and FWS, and educational programs such as the 4-H and FFA.

(c) Supervisor-led projects having a particular importance to that Supervisor’s District and/or relevance to that Supervisor’s expertise. The Board will encourage and assist each Supervisor to cultivate and lead their own project area(s), provided such projects are within the scope and statutory authority of the Board.

2. A discussion was held on the establishment of a consistent, cohesive, and professional public identity for the Board, to include:

(a) Communication formatting, such as letterheads, signature lines, logos/graphics, and business cards. This is also important for regulatory compliance.


(b) Appropriate apparel to be worn when engaging publically in person.

This discussion item was tabled to allow for more information expected to be obtained by Ms. Taylor at the upcoming AFCD meeting. Ms. Taylor agreed to brief the Board at its next meeting on her experience at the AFCD meeting.

3. A discussion was held regarding the filling of the vacant Board seat. While no specific candidates were recommended, it was agreed that the ideal candidate should come from District 5 and should not have an overtly partisan or polarizing public identity that might compromise the nonpartisan character of the Board.

4. It was unanimously decided that the Board would hold a recurring workshop meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Mr. Odom agreed to find a suitable meeting location for the recurring workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 1130.



Travis Tharp, Chairman/Acting Secretary