Escambia Soil & Water Conservation District Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025

District Supervisors in Attendance at Call to Order of Meeting

Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice Chair; Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary; Mr. Chris Curb

District Supervisors in Attendance at Call to Adjourn

Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Treasurer; Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary; Mr. Chris Curb

Call to Order/Establishment of Quorum Acknowledgement of Public Notice Mrs. Carollyn Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Quorum was established. Public notice was established.

**Discussion Items**

Landowner Agriculture Cost Share Program Clinic: this topic will be postponed until the regular meeting scheduled for February 19, 2025

ESWCD Goals and Objectives

Mr. Tharp reminded all members that the Goals and Objectives need to be addressed at every meeting and established responsibilities and timelines for each followed.

Core Area 1 - Goals 2 (aquaculture) requires that all District Supervisors complete the Shellfish Harvester Training Course. This needs to be completed ASAP.

Discussion also centered regarding having District Supervisors take the lead on various Goals in order to ensure we are staying on track. [n that regard, Mr. Tharp volunteered to lead Core Area 1 - *Goal* 2 (aquaculture); Mrs. Taylor will lead Core Area 2 (Education & Outreach) and Mr.

Odom will lead Core Area 3 - Goals1 (website)

Website Updates

Mr. Odom reported that our website server has been paid until August 2025 at which time funding to continue the website will need to be addressed.

Development and Impacts to Soil and Water

As Mr. Curb attends local meetings held by Commissioners and City Council on behalf of Flood Defenders, Mrs. Taylor suggested he could also represent the ESWCD when appropriate.

Having a policy/ position statement from the ESWCD Board on critical issues could be presented by Mr. Curb at these meetings.

Mr. Tharp noted that Mr. Jeff DeWeese has expertise in the impact on local aquaculture and that our Board should consider approaching him for input regarding working to expand wild oyster reefs.

Mr. Tharp also noted a program in Monroe County, FL where septic tanks are converted to rain water cisterns. Mrs. Sindel will contact ECUA board member to see if this is a possible project for our community.

Discussion regarding the FSWCD Board connecting people with projects... to involve local and state organizations involved in similar missions/projects as ESWCD would expand the outreach and opportunities for success. Mrs. Taylor offered to start a document listing local organizations and their mission statement/ programs, their points of contact and when they meet. Mrs. Taylor will share this document so that the Board Supervisors can add to it.

The ongoing loss of county farmland to development and the unintended impact of that development on soil and water is an ongoing issue. Mr. Joshua McElhaney USDA/NCRS, has offered to put together a statement reflecting the loss of agricultural land to residential/ commercial development

Standing Rules for the FSWCD

Mr. Tharp is reviewing the policies of other Districts to view their best practices and see if our

District should be implementing them.

New Business

Mrs. Taylor reminded the Board that our next Workshop will be held at the Escambia County building on Fairfield Drive.

Mr. Odom noted he will not be in attendance at the Regular Meeting on February 19, 2025

Adjournment

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mrs. Sindel. With all in favor, meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

