# ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

December 19, 2024

**District Supervisors in Attendance**

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

**Attendees**

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

**Call to** **Order**

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:09

Quorum was present.

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

## Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion was made by Mrs. Karen Sindel to approve the November 21, 2024 minutes. Mr. Chris Curb seconded the motion. With all in favor, motion carried.

## Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published in the Pensacola News Journal and noted on the County's website.

**Treasurer's Report**

The bank statement was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Johnnie Odom did deposit $10.00 to

keep the account active.

Discussion held on the Supervisors' available funds and funding sources.

## REPORTS

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist with USDA/NRCS gave a DC report. Discussion on the current applicants, field visits, and management of active contracts. Further discussions held on the Farm Bill and the IRA Bill.

Brief discussion held on AFCD contact person, the landowner agriculture cost-share program clinic, and possible Farm Tour in the fall of 2025.

# Old Business

Discussion held on the renewal of the current website. The website is provided by Streamline and was through a grant AFCD obtained. The website will be up for renewal soon at a cost of

$960.00. Mrs. Carollyn Taylor will contact AFCD regarding the website. Mr. Odom will also in the meantime create another temporary site/domain in order to transfer the Board's information. The goal is to eliminate high costs of maintaining the required website.

Discussion was held on the Monarch billboard. Once the website domain is resolved, the billboards will go up with the correct URL and press releases will also be done through various outlets. Further discussion held on costs and a possibility of billboards going live in February 2025.

The FY2S Goals and Objectives were briefly reviewed for the new District Supervisors. Further discussion on each line item will be done at the next workshop meeting.

Regarding the landowner agriculture cost-share program clinic, the timeline now looks to be February or March of 2025 instead of January 2025. Discussions held on the intended audience, presenters, topics, and testimonies from actual participants enrolled in cost-share programs.

**New** **Business**

Mr. Odom made a motion 10 table the line item 'Standing Rules for the ESWCD’ to another

meeting. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion held on the workshop meetings day, time, and location.

Mrs. Sindel made a motion to have the workshop meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. Motion was seconded by Mr. Odom. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Regarding the January workshop meeting, discussion held on a proposed day and location. Mr. Odom made a motion to have the January workshop meeting on January 8, 2025 from 3:00pm-5:00pm, however if there is a library scheduling conflict, the workshop meeting date would be January 22, 2025 with the same time. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Sindel. With all in favor, the motion carried.

2025 nominations of officers, titles of officers, and current Supervisors' titles were reviewed. Mr. Tharp stated he thought it was time to step down as Chair. General discussion of who may interested in a position. Mrs. Sindel stated her nominations for Chair would be Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Odom to maintain Treasurer position, and Mr. Tharp as Vice-Chair. Mr. Curb stated he would nominate Mrs. Sindel as Secretary. Mr. Tharp stated the nominations and nay motions should be postponed until the January 15, 2025 regular Supervisor’s meeting. All were in favor.

### Add-On

The Blue Jacket Jamboree was discussed. The Supervisors will participate again by being a vendor which includes an ad in the event's catalog. The cost would be $50.00 but after January *25,* 2025, the cost increased by $10.00.

Mr. Odom made a motion to participate as a vendor at the 2025 Northview Blue Jacket Jamboree with the registration cost of $50.00 being made. Mrs. Sindel seconded the motion.

With all in favor the motion carried.

Mrs. Williams will begin the process of payment on behalf of the District Supervisors.

Mrs. Taylor stated a couple of submissions were received through the District's website. Unfortunately the messages went to spam therefore not responded to. Mrs. Taylor reviewed the public records request for data on ESWCD 01S water data.

The Supervisors were in agreement that the ESWCD doesn't collect, receive or maintain any water data. Mrs. Taylor will respond to the records request stating the ESWCD doesn't have such information and will request to be removed from the list.

Mrs. Taylor stated the Northwest Water Management District has reached out requesting a Supervisor participate in the Land Management Reviews for Escambia and Perdido Rivers.

The dates are:

January 22, 2025from 9:00am - 3:00pm - Escambia River January 23, 2025from 9:00am - 1:00pm - Perdido River One or more of the Supervisors will attend the meetings.

Mrs. Sindel stated she has completed her Form 1and Ethics training. Mr. Curb has completed Form I and will be completing the Ethics training soon. Mrs. Sindel, Mr. Curb, and Mr. Odom will complete their Oath of Office and have all documents notarized after the meeting.

## Adjournment

With no further business coming before the District Supervisors, Mrs. Sindel made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion. With all in n favor, meeting adjourned at 10:33am.

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