

ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES**

July 27, 2023

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair / Acting Secretary; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair / Acting Treasurer, Mrs. Carolynn Taylor, Member.

**Attendees**

Ms. Francesca Bolling, Guest; Mr. Brian Foreman, Guest; Mr. Levi Blackmon, 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 accept the June 22, 2023 Board minutes, seconded by Mrs. Carolynn Taylor. Motion carried unopposed.

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Meeting advertisement published.

**Treasurer's Report**

No activity with bank account.

**Public Forum**

Ms. Francesca Bolling introduced herself, gave a brief background of her interest and her interest in the Board.

Mr. Brian Foreman introduced himself, gave a brief background of his interest and his interest in Board as well.

**Reports**

Mr. Levi Blackmon gave the District Conservationist Report. For the guests, Mr. Blackmon gave a background of USDA/NRCS, roles of the District Conservationist and his duties as the Soil Conservationist.

Discussed the workload of the office, approved cost share applications, and allocated fund mg. Discussion was also held on how additional funding was achieved and the importance of the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District's input into prioritizing the resource concerns for our area.

## **Old Business**

For the guests, discussions were held regarding the qualifications to become an ESWCD Board Supervisor and speaking with FDACS to verify qualifications.

Further discussions on the Board's priorities in filling Board vacancies, proposed projects and the different aspects of each project, and how each Board member's interests could support such projects.

Brief discussions held on several topics such as the need for the Board to perform outreach to the community, NACD, AFCD, and ultimately being able to pay dues to have voting privileges at the AFCD meetings.

## **New Business**

Discussion held on Mr. Foreman's interest in the Board. The current members supported the appointment of Mr. Foreman.

Mr. Odom made a motion to appoint Mr. Foreman to District 5, seconded by Mrs. Taylor. Motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Foreman doesn't reside in District 5, however according to the Department of Agriculture Guidance provided at the last Area AFCD meeting, and to the best of the Board's knowledge, he is allowed to be appointed to it.

Mr. Odom stated once all vacancies have been filled, the Board will have an election of officers.

Mr. Tharp discussed the need for the Board to come together with their roles and responsibilities especially in conducting outreach activities.

Mrs. Taylor she would like to attend the upcoming AFCD annual meeting being held September 26, 2023 - September 27, 2023 in Gainesville, FL.

Mrs. Taylor made a motion to be the designated representative for the ESWCD, seconded by Mr. Odom. Motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Odom and Mr. Tharp may be attending as well but no decision of certainty as if yet. A notice will be put on the Board's webpage stating one or more will be attending the Annual AFCD meeting.

Discussion held on the changes to ECUA's recycling program rate increases and how their updated policies are affecting the citizens of the county.

Mrs. Taylor made a motion to approve a letter stating the Board's position on ECUA's new strategy and costs regarding recycling in the county. Mr. Foreman seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

With no further business coming before the Board Mr. Odom motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Foreman. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 11:00a.

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair and Acting Secretary