

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

June 20, 2024

## **Board Members in Attendance**

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

## **Attendees**

Mr. Jeff DeWeese, ESWCD Board Candidate; Mr. Joshua McElhaney, USDA/NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD.

## **Call to Order**

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:17am.

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

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Mr. Johnnie Odom made a motion to approve May 16, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Carollyn Taylor. Motion carried.

## **Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Meeting advertisement published.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The original bank statement was mailed to the office. After review by the Board, all were in favor of the balance reflected.

## **Public Forum**

Mr. Jeffrey Deweese, who is a candidate for Group 4 came to the meeting to introduce himself. Mr. DeWeese had previously sat on the ESWCD years ago and is interested in serving again.

## **Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist, gave an update on the office workload pertaining to Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Mr. McElhaney stated the new Soil Technician for NRCS will hopefully start at the end of June or sometime in July.

Regarding the Feral Hog grant received by Santa Rosa's District, Mr. Levi Blackmon will attend the July Board meeting to give an update.

Brief discussion held on the upcoming possible conservation easement grant.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Tharp stated he has had access to an academic website regarding the Monarch butterfly. He will keep researching and give an update to the Board later.

Discussion held on the current Board's website, annual fees for it, and the possibility of looking for another webpage domain, meeting advertisements, and ADA compliance.

Mr. Tharp stated he attend the AFCD Area 1 meeting and completed his required Ethic's training. Mrs. Taylor has also completed her Ethic's training, and Mr. Odom will be completing it soon.

General discussions held on the Schuckelberry Farms Nursery and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Regarding grant opportunities, the Board will begin actively researching the opportunities with the possibility of being able to apply to ones within their scope of duties. Discussion held on how each Board member could become the point of contact for grants or projects they have supported. Each would keep up the on goings of the projects and provide updates. All were in favor of the ideal.

Mr. Tharp stated there is a possibility the students with UWF's Film class could assist with the Board's Eco-minutes PSA. This will help offset any costs.

Mr. Odom stated the contact for the billboards had been on vacation, however as soon as he can get with them, he will give the Board an update.

Discussion held on the proposed budget's progress and the BOCC budget workshops.

Discussion held on the Groups up for election and the two vacancies, and the new ruling that went in effect on June 13, 2024. The new ruling has reverted to the original process in which any person can run for any group regardless of their residential districts and the Group term limits are staggered. Groups 1 and 3 term ends 2025. Groups 2, 4, and 5 terms will end 2027.

After review of the June 13<sup>th</sup> guidelines, Mr. Tharp will remain on the ballot for Group 4, which he already sits in. Mr. Deweese is still interested in sitting on the Board and discussion was held on Mr. Deweese being appointed.

Mr. Odom made a motion the current members due their due diligence in learning more about Mr. Deweese and Mr. Deweese do his due diligence on the procedures to remove his name from the ballot With those items being done, at the July Board meeting the current Board members will seek to appoint Mr. DeWeese, if Mr. DeWeese is still interested. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regarding the OPPAGA, each Board member received the draft itemized review of the audit performed. Brief discussions held on a few bullet points that need updates or corrections. Any updates need to be done by July 3, 2024.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. With 11 in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:48a.

*Approved minutes with signature on file.*