

ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES**  
**October 19, 2023**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Carolyn Taylor, Secretary; Mr. Brian Foreman, member.

**Attendees**

Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD; Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist, NRCS; Mr. Levi Blackmon, Soil Conservationist, NRCS.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:19am.

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 September 21, 2023 Board minutes. Seconded by Mr. Brian Foreman. Motion carried unopposed.

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Meeting advertisement published.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Johnnie Odom gave the Treasurer report. No activity with bank account. Mr. Odom will deposit \$10.00 into the Board's account due to notice of inactivity from Warrington Bank.

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave an update on the office activities, workload, and applications for the cost-share programs should be submitted by November 17, 2023 for FY24.

**Old Business**

Mrs. Carolyn Taylor stated Board design/branding would not be available.

Mr. Tharp stated shirts are not available through the company he inquired too. Also, as of yet a secondary available location hasn't been found to hold the Board's workshop meetings.

**New Business**

Mrs. Debbie Williams reviewed the Department of Economic Opportunity fee invoice. The fee was waived in 2015 therefore Mr. Odom's signature is just needed. Mrs. Williams will mail the invoice to DEO.

Mrs. Williams reviewed the Public Depositor's Report. The report is used to verify the Board's FEIN, legal name, current bank, and the bank's FEIN. The information coincides with the letter from Warrington Bank stating the Board's information as well. Mrs. Williams will email the form back.

Discussion on Ms. Whitney Panzik, who is interested in becoming a member of the Board. Ms. Panzik owns Panzik Farms in Molino. Mrs. Taylor has spoken to her on a couple of occasions and the other Board members will reach out to her next week. If need be, a special meeting will be held to appoint her to the Board.

Brief discussion on using social media as a potential outreach to the community and how the Board can assist USDA/NRCS with their program outreach.

Regarding the Annual AFCD meeting held in September which Mrs. Taylor attended, she has a quite deal of information to review with the Board. During the next workshop meeting, Mrs. Taylor will go over in more detail.

The Board discussed grants, involving stakeholders/contributors for projects who are supportive in the Board's mission. Projects include but not limited to conservation/environmental education. The Board will also review all aspects involved in Envirothon.

Discussion held on the setting the Board's intentions as a group on community issues and community involvements. Mr. Foreman stated an increase in heavy development in the area which may impact the environment. Mr. Odom asked Mr. Foreman to write a brief summary of the issues and environmental concerns. The Board will then review more in depth.

Mrs. Taylor discussed the updated website information AFCD stated is available. AFCD was able to obtain the upgrade from a grant. The new web design will ensure the District's web page is in compliance with ADA regulations. The first year is free then \$800.00 thereafter. The Board however doesn't have to stay with the new service. Mr. Odom is familiar with ADA compliance and web designs, he will review the new information.

Discussion on adding agenda, Board proposals and other items to the website. This will allow other members as well as the public to review. In addition, this will ensure the Board doesn't discuss any business until their meetings. Mr. Odom will send a notice once a week regarding updates on the website.

Mrs. Williams passed the NACD Annual Report to the Board and the report is available on NACD's website as well. Mrs. Williams will update and submit the Board members information requested from NACD. Commissions on Ethics requested the coordinator's name be updated. Mrs. Williams will still be listed as coordinator in order to update Board members information. This will assist the Board until the Board is fully established.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:19.