

Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

August 15, 2024

Board Members in Attendance

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

Note: Mr. Jeff DeWeese was unable to attend due to plane delays.

Attendees

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

Call to Order

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

Acknowledgement of quorum being present.

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 the July 2024 regular Board minutes. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to approve the July 2024 workshop Board minutes. Seconded by Mr. Odom. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published on 'myescambia.com, Sunpress, and the Board's public website.

Treasurer's Report

Although the bank statement had not arrived via regular mail, Mr. Odom stated there has been no bank activity.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report deferred until later in the meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Odom stated in regards to the Eco-minutes, the contact for this has been out of town and is back now. Mr. Odom has left them a message and is waiting for a return call.

Discussion held on providing educational outreach on the importance of Milkweed. Mr. Odom stated Lamar advertising gave him information on pricing for digital and poster/vinyl. Cost per billboard (poster/vinyl) would be \$150.00. A graphic design would need to be done and Ms. Taylor stated she had a contact and would get with them.

Discussion held on the submitted Board budget the budget was submitted under the County's Natural Resources Conservation Division. The line item within the Division's budget would most likely be listed as 'outside government agency funding'. Any approved budget funding for FY25 will not likely be available until October.

Mr. Tharp was able to give a presentation at the Native Plants Society meeting. In his presentation he gave an overview of the Board's background, mission, and duties. He state

participants were actively engaged with questions and positive feedback. In his presentation he mentioned the current cost share program for feral hogs and agriculture conservation programs.

The Board were all given a copy of the drat OPPAGA review. Each member reviewed and discussed line items. The Board will give Mr. Tharp their additional comments and he will submit those comments to review firm.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist Report. Discussion held on the Area 1 meeting, contract obligations, allocated funding, and the possibility of increase in staff.

Brief discussion held on how solar farms are being installed on prime farm lands.

As a reminder the next workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5 at the Tryon Branch Library at 4:45.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:51a.



TRAVIS THARP, CHAIR