

ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

November 09, 2023

151 Hwy 97 - Molino

9AM

Board Members in Attendance

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

Attendees

Ms. Whitney Panzic- Panzic Acres

Call to Order

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at: 9:23 AM

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 October 19, 2023 Board minutes. Seconded by Mr. Brian Foreman. Motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Johnnie Odom made a motion to accept the November 02, 2023 Workshop Board minutes. Seconded by Mr. Brian Foreman. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgement of Public Notice

Regular meeting change posted to myescambia.com.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Johnnie Odom gave the Treasurer report No new activity with a bank account.

Mr. Odom deposited \$10.00 into the Board's account due to notice of in activity from Warrington Bank.

Reports

Mr. Levi Blackmon gave an update on the office activities, workload, and applications for the cost-share programs should be submitted by November 17, 2023 for FY24. Mr. Blackmon stated that they have been conducting field visits/contract maintenance- and have about 100 contracts. Mr. Blackmon stated that if the board is aware of anyone experiencing livestock forage issues due to drought, to refer them to the Farm Service Agency in Jay. Mr. Levi Blackmon also stated that they will attend training over In Gainesville, FL

There was a brief discussion regarding Ms. Whitney Panzic looking into qualified programs for her 21 Acre homestead operation. Ms. Panzic will make plans to come by the office au later date so that Ms. Debbie Williams can walk her through the process.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

Records Management Compliance brought up by Mr. Levi Blackmon. Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair needs to sign something which confirms that nothing has been disposed of regarding file from 7 years back. There was brief discussion about where these records could be located and the protocol for document storage. Mr. Johnnie Odom made a motion to comply with the state. Seconded by Ms. Carollyn Taylor. Motion carried unopposed.

AFCD-Charlene Meeks December Meeting: Agenda Item by Mr. Levi Blackmon regarding Ms. Charlene Meeks from AFCD Invitation to December meeting. Ms. Meeks has previously stated Interest In being at our meeting to discuss FL Sunshine laws. Introduce herself, and get to know our new members of Escambia.

The regular December meeting was set to be held December 23, 2023, but concerns were discussed regarding potential conflicts with Holiday plans and Ms. Meeks availability.

After board discussion of meeting dates everyone would be available- Mr. Johnnie Odom moved to change the regular December meeting to December 07, 2023 at 9AM. Seconded by Ms. Carollyn Taylor. Motion carried unopposed.

Mr. Levi Blackmon, per Ms. Debbie Williams's Instructions, said would email Ms. Meeks and Ms. Williams of the new proposed December meeting date.

Workshop discussion- The board previously agreed to hold a workshop the first Thursday of every month. Mr. Johnnie Odom is still working on securing a regular meeting space. Due to the regular meeting change- Ms. Carollyn Taylor motioned to skip the December 2023 workshop and resume in January 2024- date to be determined. Seconded by Mr. Johnnie Odom. Motion carried unopposed.

Filling Supervisor Vacancy- Ms. Whitney Panzik had previously met with and discussed her sincere Interest In filling the vacant Supervisor seat as a local farmer in District 5, Ms., Panzik is committed to attending meetings, workshops, and is comfortable that she meets the requirements. An opportunity to engage in further discussion of the matter was brought by Mr. Travis Tharp and without any further clarification needed- Mr. Brian Foreman made a motion to appoint Ms. Whitney Panzik to the vacant position. Seconded by Mr. Johnnie Odom. Motion carried unopposed. All members agree that since Ms. Panzik is the only Supervisor to reside in District 5- that she should be appointed to that seat which would change Mr. Brian Foreman to District 3.

Ms. Taylor mentioned Ms. Whitney Panzik that she would need her email and phone number to send to Ms. Charlene Meeks. Ms. Taylor also suggested that if Ms. Panzik did not want to use her personal email to conduct Soil and Water Conservation District business, she may want to consider creating a separate email. Ms. Panzik said she would get information over to Ms., Taylor by the end of business day.

There was a brief discussion touching on Florida Sunshine Laws and the ways in which the board is expected to conduct business. Ms. Panzik acknowledged this and all Supervisors could conduct business/communication is to be conducted via email with Ms. Debbie Williams.

SOB- Election requirements- Mr. Levi Blackmon informed the board that the information Ms. Taylor sent to Ms. Williams was forwarded to the Escambia SOB. Ms. Taylor had been in touch with AFCD, FDACS, and the FL Division of Elections to try and clarify all election terms. The local Escambia SOB was not sure.

Per the Florida Divisions of Elections, Ms. Taylor was told that the local SOE's are responsible for special districts. Ms. Taylor was advised that if the Escambia SOB was unclear, they needed to contact their General Council and this is not uncommon for local SOE's to utilize this resource. Ms. Taylor forwarded the General Council contact given to Ms. Williams, who forwarded it to the local SOB.

Per Mr. Levi Blackmon, the findings were that all Supervisor seats were up for election in 2024.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Johnnie Odom motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Brian Foreman. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.