

ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**November 02, 2023**

**Tryon Branch Library**

**1200 Langley Ave.**

**Pensacola, FL 32504**

**5:30-6:45PM**

**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: 5:53 PM

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

Workshop advertisement published at the front of Farm Bureau's Molino office.  
Workshop posted to myescambia.com

**Old Business**

Branding, shirts, watchdog program, filling the vacant board position.

**New Business**

Filling the vacant board position- Ms. Whitney Panzic from Panzic Acres was present so board members could get to know her and consider her as a prospect to fill the vacant appointment. Ms. Panzic was able to answer questions such as her experience as a farmer, and her confidence in signing the affirmation if elected. She is passionate about rural expansion and placement and preserving local farm land, as her farm is 21 acres and she has over 200 farm animals. Ms. Panzic expressed she was able to make monthly meetings and workshops and would also like to engage by example in various conservation programs.

**Website- Streamline**

Ms. Taylor gave an update on Streamline giving out a handout with the website link and pricing details for board review. The cost of this website subscription a er the grant from AFCD is up would be \$960/year which is a locked-in, negotiated, rate. We are working directly with Adrianna at Streamline to get our website up and running and in compliance.

Letter of Support from ESWCD for Urban Forestry grant- Email with details for the grant was provided for discussion. Mr. Odom expressed that he wished there was something like this in Tallahassee, as it relates to tree canopies, addition of tree coverage. Ms. Taylor pointed out that this looked like a statewide grant, but as it related to this board's business, Northvlew High School was looking to apply. Ms. Taylor also stated that this seemed in line with the current Agriculture Teacher and his goals for the Ag department as Northvlew has an old program. Mr. Tharp was curious who the point of contact was. Ms. Taylor pulled up the website per the initial email sent out by Debbie Williams and Mr. Tharp approved of it being a .gov site. The board unanimously decided to move forward and Mr. Tharp signed a formal letter of support.

Other items Presented by Board Members:

Ms. Taylor, Secretary, included a handout with a summary of the AFCD Fall conference and the board was interested in a recap. Ms. Taylor went over Building Effective Partnerships and Stakeholder engagement. Mr. Tharp reiterated once again from last meetings, that we should have a roster of various city governments, community groups, etc. Ms. Taylor encouraged engaging the public and echoed prior sentiments to solidify a mission statement we helped compile per our last workshop. Mr. Odom was not tied to being the administrator of the current site. Our District Partner- Ms. Debbie Williams should have access as she had to do so.

Building local working groups- Ms. Taylor went over the Statewide initiative to compile feedback in the form of local working groups to determine key factors of water and soil conservation funding throughout the state. Mr. Tharp said that it sounded like a lot of work. Ms. Taylor expressed that with her experience in dealing in business statewide, Escambia County seems to always be the "red headed step child." Ms. Taylor continued that she felt that anywhere we can include feedback from our part of the state, we should strive to include our county at the table.

Upcoming Election for Soil & Water Districts- reiterate the need to clarify our election term durations so that we may be prepared to run in 2024: Ms. Taylor gave a brief update. The local SOE does not know the terms of our elections. Ms. Taylor stated she contacted FDACS and they are also unsure. Finally, per the Florida Divisions of Elections, the local SOE's would be the appropriate contact for the final answer- stating that they can work with their General Council to get clarification. Board members agreed that at minimum, appointed seats should be up in 2024. Mr. Tharp added that eventually, all seats should be filled with elected Supervisors vs. Appointments.

Treasurer Update- Follow up item from Mr. Odom: He was able to put \$10 in the bank to keep our account open and in good standing.

Meeting Room information- Ms. Taylor was able to book a room for this workshop at the Tryon Branch public library. Mr. Odom had not yet determined meeting space as he stated he could through the school district. Mr. Tharp wished we had the meeting room for the workshop for 2 hours. Ms. Taylor stated she asked if she had booked enough time in the email she sent- and that booking 2 hours would be no problem. Mr. Tharp asked if we could do a recurring meeting with the public library- Ms. Taylor stated not to her knowledge, but as long as meetings are booked in advance, it should be no issue to find space at one of the libraries. We agreed if we needed to utilize library space to try and book workshops from 4:45-6:45 PM. Mr. Odom again echoed he would look into additional meeting space options.

Special Meeting/Regular November meeting discussion- Given that Whitney Panzic expressed sincere interest in the Supervisor vacancy, the board agreed to combine a special meeting for Ms. Panzic's appointment- directly followed by our regular meeting at the Farm Bureau Molino office. Mr. Odom expressed he would be unable to attend our regular set meeting for November, and asked if we should just wait until December. The board agreed that due to the urgent nature of business, we should try and move the meeting up in November to confirm the new Supervisor and meet the state statute requirements that all

Soll and Water Conservation boards must meet by the end of year 2023. Ms. Taylor said she would look into the matter to the agreed date of November 9, 2023.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Brian Foreman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Johnni Odom. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.