

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
March 21, 2024

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair/Acting Treasurer; Mrs. Carollyn Taylor, Secretary (via conference call).

Attendees

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

Call to Order

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:20am.

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 February 15, 2024, regular Board minutes. Seconded by Ms. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Review and approval of the March 6, 2024, workshop minutes were deferred to later.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Balance posted on the February's bank statement is correct

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney wasn't available at time, report deferred until later.

Old Business

Discussion held on the Blue Jacket Jamboree being held Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 10:00a. The Board discussed the booth, table, tents, chairs, and supplies needed. Mr. Odom will have the map printed showing county roads, parcels with soil and water information, wetlands, and active superfund sites within the county. Seed packets of Bidens alba and Milkweed will be handed out along with information on the two plant varieties.

Further Old Business will be deferred until Mr. Joshua McElhaney's has given his report

Deferred Reports

Mr. McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report. Updates on the continuation of field work along with obligations and ranking. The State Conservationist visited the office and made a few field visits on Monday, March 4, 2024.

The Local Working Group (LWG) stakeholder meeting will be Thursday, May 16, 2024, after the regular scheduled Escambia Soil and Water Board meeting. Stakeholders consist of members/representatives from the Board, local farmers, Forestry division, and the County.

Deferred Review of Workshop Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March 6, 2024 workshop meeting. Mr. Odom made a motion to approve with the pending spelling correction of the flower name. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Old Business (continuation)

Mr. Tharp gave a brief update on the OPPAGA performance review being done by Mauldin & Jenkins. Mr. Tharp has spoken with them regarding the Board's activities and he was also given further direction on how to upload any documents requested by the firm.

New Business

Discussion on the MOU between the County and the Soil and Water Board, specifically where the Board is able to request funding from the Board of County Commissioners. Brief discussion on items the Board would like to request would be dues to AFCD, travel to trainings, and possibly dues to NACD. Mrs. Taylor will begin to prepare a proposal and Mr. Odom will reach out to the County regarding a contact for them.

Mr. Odom made a motion to begin the preparation and submittal of a budget request to the Board of County Commissioners. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion held on the bill regarding Soil and Water Conservation Districts not passing. With this, the Board will actively conduct outreach for qualified members to fill the vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Odom stated he had the opportunity during a school board presentation that included showing the elected officials in specific districts, which although not listed, there were elected Soil and Water Board members in those specific districts.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carolyn Taylor, Secretary