ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

May 21, 2025

Molino Farm Bureau Building 9:00a.m.

# District Supervisors in Attendance

Ms. Carollyn Taylor, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom Treasurer; Mr. Chris Curb.

# Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist, USDA/NRCS. Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRM/Natural Resources Conservation Division; Ms. Savannah England, Intern Escambia County NRM/Natural Resources Conservation Division.

# Call to Order

Ms. Carollyn Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:16a.m.

# Acknowledgement of Quorum Present Acknowledgement of Public Notice Agenda Updates/Changes

Ms. Taylor added to the agenda:

Old Business - Updates on grant, billboard, regular meeting location, and HB973/SB986. New Business - Form 1 and FWC regulated bear hunt

# Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance Minutes of the Last Meeting(s)

Mr. Travis Tharp made a motion to approve the following minutes:

April 2, 2025 Workshop meeting minutes

April 16, 2025 Regular meeting minutes

May 7, 2025 Workshop meeting minutes

Motion seconded by Mr. Chris Curb. With all in favor, motion carried.

# Reports

Treasurer's Report - No changes to report

District Conservationist Report- Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave an update on the office workload. Discussed number of applications approved, funding amounts and continuing to work on obligations. Brief discussion held on the current status of potential office changes such as location and personnel due to Federal cut backs. Mr. McElhaney is hoping to have more information in the next couple of weeks.

# Old Business

Discussion on proposed projects for the White-Reinhardt Grant Mr. Tharp has found more potential projects in which merit badges could be earned such as animal science, insect study or weather. The educational display would be stationed at the Pensacola MESS Hall and be used for scout troops

to obtain their merit badge.

Due to time of grant deadline of June 13, 2025, the Supervisors will discuss final details of project and prepare the application for submission. Mr. Curb made a motion to approve all grant activities

be finalized at the workshop and for the grant to be submitted by the deadline date. Mr. Odom seconded the motion. With all in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Odom discussed the billboard for native plant species which not only are beneficial to the monarch butterfly but to other species as well. A name for the page's URL is needed. After brief discussions of names, the page for the URL will be entitled 'Plant Native'.

Ms. Taylor stated she still hasn't received word from AFCD regarding dues. She did go to their webpage and sent a message through the 'contact us' tab. She will give updates as soon as she is able to actually speak with someone.

Discussion held on changing the regular meeting location to a more convenient facility. Previous discussions on the subject had been done which were supportive of a change. Mrs. Sindel was unavailable to attend the meeting therefore it will be brought up again at a later time.

# New Business

Brief discussion of the HB 973 /SB 986. As of now it appears the Florida SWCD will not be abolished.

Mr. Curb stated SB 1118 did pass which aims to shift land development regulations away from local governments. This would impact Escambia County's Land Development Code by limiting the county's control for future development and allowing property owners to bypass zoning and land use. Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Curb to bring more background information in order for the Supervisors to review full details.

Brief discussion on the Supervisor's proposed budget for FY25-26. Backup documentation will be provided as before showing where the funds will be allocated.

# Open Discussions

Mr. Tharp has been asked by the local Florida Native Plant Society to speak quarterly on updates of the Escambia SWCD. All were in favor.

# Adjournment

With no further business coming before the District Supervisors, Mr. Odom made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Curb seconded the motion. With all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:lSa.m.

Signed Minutes on File

Ms. Carollyn Taylor, Chair