ESCAMBIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

July 16, 2025

1651 E Nine Mile Road

Escambia County Parks and Recreation Department 9:00a.m.

# District Supervisors in Attendance

Ms. Carollyn Taylor, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary; Mr. Chris Curb.

# Attendees

Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRM/Natural Resources Conservation Division.

# Call to Order

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:09a.m.

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

Ms. Carollyn Taylor added update on the White-Reinhardt Grant Item was placed under old business.

# Minutes of the Last Meeting(s)

Mrs. Karen Sindel made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Curb second the motion. With all in favor, motion passed.

# Reports

Treasurer's Report- Bank statement had not been received as of yet for June 2025 therefore no action taken.

# Old Business

Ms. Taylor stated she received an email stating they were not given the White-Reinhardt Grant However, she would still like to receive and review future grants that may be available to the District

Discussion held on the billboard. Mr. Odom was unavailable to update the Supervisors as to the status of the project going live. Mr. Tharp did state he was speaking with an owner of a native plant nursery regarding milkweed. There seems to be a parasite, Ophryocystis elektroscirrha (OE), invading milkweed which can harm the monarch butterfly. More scientific information is needed regarding status of the parasite issue before putting the billboard project aside. In addition, may just need to change verbiage for the billboard's message.

Ms. Taylor will get in contact with UF/IFAS regarding the subject matter.

# New Business

Discussion held on the current budget and FY26 budget, Area Florida Conservation District (AFCD), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and the website were the main topics.

Ms. Taylor has tried on numerous occasions to reach out to AFCD but has not gotten any

response. As of now, it appears AFCD is not fully active therefore no dues have been requested and

there are no grant funds available to maintain the current District website. The current fee to maintain the website with Streamline is $1,152.

Discussion on NACD, the function of NACD and dues to be part of the NACD.

Mr. Tharp made a motion to pay the current Streamline website yearly due of $1,152.00 from the FY25 budget funds. Motion was deferred.

Further discussion held on FY25 website dues and the possible need to maintain the website through Streamline.

After the discussions, the motion would be amended to pay the current Streamline website yearly dues of $1,152 from the FY25 budget and include in the FY26 budget a line item for the website dues based on the current fees. Motion was seconded by Ms. Sindel.

With all in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on held on reimbursements for the ethics training required for the Supervisors.

Regarding the outline of funds for the FY26 budget, discussion was held on what to include or change. The first item to change was instead of travel and per Diem, state it as 'travel and lodging.' The second would remove AFCD/NACD dues to state 'association dues.'

Mrs. Sindel discussed the need for having monthly meetings and questioned if quarterly meetings would be better. After discussion the Supervisors will cancel all workshop meetings for the remaining of the year. Regular meetings will still be held once a month. If a workshop meeting is called for, the meeting will begin after the regular meeting.

Mr. Curb will contact the COC to cancel the meeting room for the workshops.

# Open Discussions

General discussions held on the need to review the current Goals and Objectives and how those have been implemented. In addition, the need for projects to be put in place and acted upon instead having it on the table for months with no action being taken. Need a plan in place for outreach to partners, community, and other officials. Review projects that relate back to the conservation of soil and water. Enforcing the ideal to other local government entities of planting native plants for roadways and such instead of non-native species

# Adjournment

With no further business coming before the District Supervisors and with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:04

Signed Minutes on File

Mrs. Karen Sindel, Secretary