



*ESCAMBLIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
January 20, 2022**

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair; Vice-Chair; Mrs. Anne Bennett, Treasurer; Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary.

Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mr. Levi Blackmon, Soil Conservationist-NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRC.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:12am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

Mr. Levi Blackmon gave the Invocation.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2021 meeting. Mr. Louis Toth seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Conservationist Report.

Old Business

Discussion was held on selecting a Conservation Farmer of the Year. Due to Covid and schedules, the selection will be held back for now.

New Business

Discussion was held on the use of permaculture farming which is a process to help agriculture be more sustainable and Biochar which is produced from plant materials and used to increase soil health.

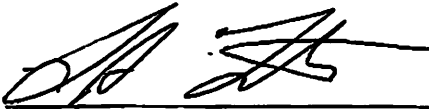
Discussion held regarding adding more educational information to the Board's website.

Discussions were held on the proposed House Bill 783 and Senate Bill 1078 which would eliminate Florida's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Ms. Wilson attended the AFACD zoom conference and gave an update to what AFCD, and other Districts are doing to get their voice heard opposing the legislation.

Mrs. Bennett drafted a letter to our local Representatives; all were in favor with corrections that may be needed as well. A typed draft will be sent to Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair for submission to our State Representatives.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Toth', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Louis Toth



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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
March 17, 2022**

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Anne Bennett, Treasurer; Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary.

Attendees

Mr. Travis Tharp, guest; Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mr. Levi Blackmon, Soil Conservationist-NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRC.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

Mr. Levi Blackmon gave the Invocation.

Mrs. Wilson called for a moment of silence for the situation in Ukraine.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting. Mr. Louis Toth seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report.

Public Forum

Mr. Travis Tharp gave a background on himself and his interest in the Board's functions. He is beginning a small scale agriculture adventure on his property and is hoping to expand his products to local food markets.

Reports

Mr. Levi Blackmon and Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report. The Urban Agriculture Incentive under the EQIP program will be taking applications until May 13, 2022.

Old Business

Discussion was held on the Bill amending the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The final bill, which is waiting signature from the Governor, list changes such as Supervisors to be elected in each district of the county, election of supervisors every two years, and qualifications requirements. Mr. Toth made a motion to amend, as needed, the Board's previous letter to Representatives regarding the Bill and forward to the Governor. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. Motion carried.



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
April 21, 2022

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Anne Bennett, Treasurer; Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary, Mr. Zackery Gossett.

Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mr. Levi Blackmon, Soil Conservationist-NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRC.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

Mr. Levi Blackmon gave the Invocation.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2022 meeting. Mr. Zackery Gossett seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report. Discussion held on payment of NACD dues. Motion by Mrs. Bennett to submit another hardship letter. Seconded by Mr. Gossett. Motion carried.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report. The Urban Agriculture Incentive under the EQIP program will be taking applications until May 13, 2022. Current funding for EQIP and CSP is underway.

Old Business

Discussion held on SB 1078 updates. Mrs. Wilson attended the FDACS/AFCD SB 1078 update discussion via phone on April 20, 2022. As of now there are no legal suits being brought and as of now, the Bill has not been signed by the Governor. Mrs. Bennet made a motion to send another letter. However, the Board had previously sent a letter to the Governor regarding the Bill. At this time there was no second. Further discussion held regarding sending a follow-up letter to the Governor and appropriate staff. Mrs. Wilson stated she would work with Mrs. Bennett on this if so moved. Mr. Toth made a motion to send a follow-up letter to the Governor and others regarding SB 1078. Mr. Gossett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Further discussions held on eligibility criteria for the Board if the Bill passes, county districts, and election timeframes.

Discussion held on the meeting requirements for the Board. For calendar year 2022, meetings must be in a public accessible facility, all 5 supervisors need to be present, no vacancies, and minutes are to taken. As of date, the ESWCD Board meets the criteria.

New Business

Mr. Toth attended the GCA & NRYO/Northview Blue Jacket Jamboree held on March 26, 2022. He was impressed with the livestock show/event and brought some brochures back for the Board to review.

Mr. Toth, as an educational outreach, dispersed information to the county's schools on the Seedlings for Schools wildflower garden grant provided by the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

Mrs. Wilson will be attending and setting a display on behalf of the Board for the 2022 Earth Day event being held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Bayview Park. For record, due to the fact two Board members will be attending the same event, it is noted Mrs. Bennett will be attending too but not representing the Board and will have another station set up.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Travis Tharp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Toth. The meeting adjourned at 10:20am.



Mr. Louis Toth

Mr. Toth moved to go forward with a Conservation Farmer award. All were in favor in moving forward with the award.

Mrs. Bennett inquired about the Blue Jacket Jamboree. The Board will not participate this year due to short notice and prior obligations.

New Business

Mrs. Bennett led the discussion of appointing Mr. Travis Tharp to the vacant Group 3. Mr. Tharp stated he would accept if appointed.

Mrs. Bennett made a motion to appoint Mr. Tharp to the vacancy. Mr. Toth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wilson will assist Mr. Tharp with the paperwork for the Supervisor of Elections' office.

Discussion was held on the election of officers.

Mr. Toth made a motion to maintain the current officer standing for the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Bennett. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bennett made a motion to nominate Mr. Tharp as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Toth. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2022 meeting schedule.

Mrs. Bennett made a motion to maintain the current schedule of every third Thursday, 9:00am, at the Farm Bureau Building in Molino. Mr. Toth seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

The updated MOU between USDA/NRCS and the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District was reviewed. Mr. Toth made a motion to accept the MOU as is. Mr. Tharp seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Mrs. Wilson will be attending and setting a display out at the 2022 Earth Day event being held on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Tharp. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.



Mr. Louis Toth



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
May 19, 2022

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair; Mrs. Anne Bennett, Treasurer; Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary.

Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRC, Mr. Kolby Sprague, Escambia County NRC.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Invocation.

Mr. Kolby Sprague, new hire for the County's Natural Resources Conservation Division introduced himself.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. Lou Toth made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2022 meeting.
Mrs. Anne Bennett seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report.
All were in favor.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report.
Continue work is being done on EQIP and CSP.
The Area One AFCD meeting will be held June 3, 2022 in Crestview at 9:00a.
The Annual AFCD meeting will be September 7 – 9, 2022 in Gainesville.

Old Business

Mrs. Wilson gave an update to her participation at Earth Day. The event went well with a good attendance and there were a lot of good booths. She distributed educational items on behalf of the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District.

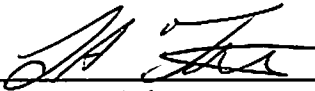
Mrs. Wilson stated the Wildflower Society had a really nice booth/display. There is a new nursery opened in Milton too.

Mrs. Bennett stated her personal booth did well too.

New Business

Mr. Toth gave an update to the System for Award Management (SAM). It appears there may be dues associated with using this system. The Board may let the thirty-day extension for use of the site to expire.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.



Mr. Louis Toth



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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
June 16, 2022**

Board Members in Attendance

Mrs. Betty Wilson, Chair; Mr. Travis Tharp, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Anne Bennett, Treasurer; Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary.

Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRC.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Those present stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in unison.

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Invocation.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2022 meeting. Mr. Travis Tharp seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report. Regarding the bank notice of inactivity of the Board's bank account, Mrs. Bennett contacted the bank and all is in order.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the District Conservationist report. As of now, the annual AFCD meeting will still be held September 7 – 9, 2022 in Gainesville.

Old Business

Mr. Toth is reviewing the System for Award Management (SAM). Discussion held on maintaining an active account. Mr. Tharp made a motion to update the SAM account. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. Motion carried.

New Business


Mr. McElhaney reviewed the reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners. The Board members present signed the affirmation of review.

Mrs. Wilson reviewed the flyer from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Discussion held regarding the program and possible groups who may be interested such as the Scouts and FFA.

Mr. Tharp stated he would be the liaison for District Scout's office.

General discussion held on the SB 1078 being signed by the Governor, the qualifications now required to run for a position on the Board as well as the required affirmation form.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mrs. Bennett made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Toth. The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.



Mr. Louis Toth
Secretary