



*ESCAMBIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT*

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
August 19, 2021

Board Members in Attendance

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

Attendees

Ms. Cathy Harding, County Forester; Mr. Adam Parden, Division Manager, Escambia
County Natural Resources; Mr. Joshua McElhaney, District Conservationist-NRCS;
Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County Natural Resources.

Call to Order

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

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

Mrs. Wilson called for a moment of silence.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 meeting.
Mr. Louis Toth seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement was noted.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Bennett gave the Treasurer's report. Bank of the South has again deducted the five-
dollar service fee, which was to be removed once e-statements started. Mrs. Bennett will
contact the bank regarding the matter.

NACD has requested fees but due to the Board having no funding source, all were in favor
to submit another hardship letter.

Public Forum

Ms. Cathy Hardin with the Florida Forestry Service gave an update to the services provided.
Ms. Hardin works with landowners regarding tree questions such as diseases, types of trees,
management plans, and available cost share programs. She has assisted with damage
assessments with the County and City after Hurricane Sally, works with landowners
implementing Best Management Practices (BMP), tracks species such as the Pine Beetle, and
is involved with prescribed burning at times. In addition to these duties, she is active with
educational outreach from events as Arbor Day and FFA.

Reports

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Conservationist Report. Funding for this year's EQIP is
ending. Applications are ranked, those approved, have been funded.
Sign up for FY22 EQIP has been extended to October 1, 2021.
New policies are coming out regularly regarding the office's procedures for Covid.

New Business

Mr. McElhaney discussed the Local Work Group meeting. The Board were all in favor of holding the meeting after their October 21, 2021 meeting. Mr. McElhaney will be sending out invitations to other agencies as well.

Mr. McElhaney discussed the request for an undated Corporative Working Agreement (CWA) between USDA/NRCS and the ESWCD. Since there is a CWA in place now, the State Office will contact the office again in September or October of this current year. Mr. McElhaney will bring an updated draft agreement to the Board once the State Office sends one.

Mr. Toth gave an update to the Blackwater Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting he attended He stated the Board is active especially with projects dealing with runoff and pesticides. Included in the Board's packet was Mr. Toth's appreciation letter to Blackwater.

Mrs. Wilson gave an update from the AFCD Area 1 meeting she attended. Discussions at the meeting included herbicide being sprayed/dumped along road right of ways by the DOT. Mrs. Wilson watched a video and will be hoping to share with the Board soon.

Mr. Toth stated he started the Florida Conservation Districts Employees Association survey. Mrs. Debbie Williams will input the information into the PDF format and mail.

Mrs. Bennett distributed the article titled 'Coastal Landfills Meet Rising Seas'. The article addresses landfills that may affect watershed or wetlands. Discussion was held regarding the local landfills and the history of them. Mrs. Bennett suggested writing a letter to Escambia County regarding this county's landfill. Mrs. Wilson will draft and bring back to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Wilson distributed the IPCC AR6 Report, which discusses climate changes due to human influences.

Old Business

Mr. Toth stated the Farm Bureau thank you letter was completed with a couple of changes and will be mailed soon.

Mrs. Williams stated she had spoken with Mr. Jerry Sheppard regarding the vacant Board seat. The Board requested Mr. Sheppard be invited to the September 16 meeting.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mrs. Bennett made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Toth. The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.



Mr. Louis Toth