



*ESCAMBIA  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES  
June 17, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Attendees**

Mr. Joshua McElhane, District Conservationist-NRCS; Mr. Adam Parden, Division  
Manager, Escambia County NRC, Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia county NRC.

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:09am.

Introduction of guests.

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

Mr. Josh McElhane gave the Invocation.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to accept the revised May 2021 minutes and the  
Seconded by Mr. Louis Toth. Motion carried unopposed.

**Acknowledgment of Public Notice**

The meeting advertisement was noted.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mrs. Bennett, along with Mrs. Wilson, gave the treasurer report. Bank of the South has  
mistakenly deducted the five-dollar service charge. Mrs. Wilson will contact the bank  
regarding the issue.

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhane gave the District Conservationist report.  
Field office is continuing to work on EQIP and CSP applications/contracts.

Mr. Adam Parden gave an update to the Natural Resources Conservation Division's  
activities. The Division continues to assist citizens with environmental requests,  
continue assistance to NRCS, and Ms. Cathy Hardin, County Forester has been invited to  
the July Board meeting. Also working with vegetation management such as control  
burns at Jones Swamp and the sports complex off Bauer Road. Assisting with a timber  
sale at the Perdido Land Fill. County continues to monitor the possibility of a possible  
storm in the Gulf. As of now, it is looking like six to eight inches of rain possible this  
weekend.

**New Business**

Mrs. Bennett suggested the possibility of listing the information from the show she watched regarding AgrAbility. It is an USDA program about farming for the disabled. Mrs. Bennett also gave a copy a Farm Sanctuary brochure. The organization helps home animals, which no longer serve as farm animals.

Mr. Toth lead the discussion was held regarding possible grants to apply for such as food programs to the less fortunate. The Board was in favor for reviewing potential grants.

**Old Business**

Discussion was held regarding finding an appointment for the Board. The office will speak with someone regarding if they are interest or if they know of anyone. Mrs. Bennett suggested Ms. Jacqueline Rodgers since she may be stepping away from her current obligations.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 10:05am.



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Mr. Louis Toth, Secretary



*ESCAMBIA  
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**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.



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Mr. Louis Toth



**ESCAMBIA  
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES  
October 21, 2021**

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Attendees**

Mr. Jerry Sheppard, Guest; 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 9:05am.

Guest, Mr. Jerry Sheppard, introduced himself. Mr. Sheppard is retired from the Water Management District, has worked with the Soil Conservation Service, and is the President of the Farm Bureau Board.

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

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Invocation.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 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.

Discussions held regarding the Department of Economic Opportunity report, NACD dues, and the Public Depositor report.

All agreed to send in the required reports, and send hardship letter to NACD regarding dues.

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

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Conservationist Report.

Mr. McElhaney stated the year-end program numbers, and introduced Mr. Levi Blackmon, Soil Conservationist for USDA/NRCS.

Mr. McElhaney reviewed the three Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plan extensions. Extensions were for the following:

Cole/Godwin Trust – Tract 499

Boshears – Tract 740

Comalander – Tract 1227

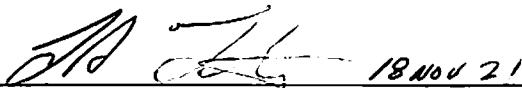
Mr. Toth made a motion to accept/approve the three updated CRP plans and extensions. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. Motion carried unopposed.

**Old Business**

Discussion held with Mr. Sheppard regarding the vacant Board seat, direction the Board would like to go especially with obtaining grant funds for projects, and being more actively involved with educational projects.

Mr. Sheppard stated he would consider the appointment to the vacant Board seat and will get back with the Board at or before their next meeting.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 9:58am.

  
18 Nov 21

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Mr. Louis Toth



*ESCAMBIA  
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES  
November 18, 2021**

**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;

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Betty Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

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

Mrs. Anne Bennett gave the Invocation.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Mrs. Anne Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 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.

**Public Forum**

Open discussion by all present regarding the vacant Board seat. The Board is awaiting response from one person who may be interested.

**Reports**

Mr. Joshua McElhaney gave the Conservationist Report.

**New Business**

Discussion held regarding giving certificates to farmers who participate in conservation practices. Mr. McElhaney will try to develop a list for the Board to review at the January 2022 Board meeting.

Discussion held on participating in Earth Day, which is April 22, 2022 – April 23, 2022 at Bayview Park. Further discussion held regarding in participating at the Blue Jacket Jamboree usual held on the last Saturday in March, Farm Tour, and other education outreach events.

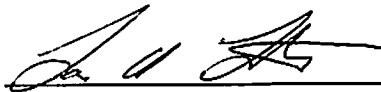
Discussion held on what materials would be possible to deliver during outreach events. A few items mentioned were conservation efforts, proper yard treatments with fertilizers/pesticides, and invasive species.

Discussion held regarding AFCD dues. Due to no funding available to the Board at this time, the Board will not be able to submit any payments.

Motion made by Mrs. Bennett to not pay requested dues and to submit a hardship letter to AFCD. Seconded by Mr. Toth. Motion carried.

Discussion held regarding the December 2021 Board meeting. Due to holidays, the meeting will not be held.

With no further business coming before the Board, Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 9:55am.



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Mr. Louis Toth