



*ESCAMBIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT*

**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.

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