



**ESCAMBIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES
February 16, 2023**

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair; Mr. Johnnie Odom, Vice-Chair.

Attendees

Mr. Joshua McElhaney, USDA/NRCS; Mr. Levi Blackmon, USDA/NRCS;
Mrs. Debbie Williams, Escambia County NRCD.

Call to Order

Mr. Travis Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. Johnnie Odom made a motion to accept the January 2023 minutes as is.
All were in favor. Motion carried unopposed.

Acknowledgment of Public Notice

Meeting advertisement published.

Treasurer's Report

Due to bank statement being unavailable, the Treasurer's report will be deferred.

Reports

Mr. McElhaney also gave an update regarding the current workload in the office.
Brief background given on the EQIP and CIC.

Discussions held on agriculture, District working with NRCS on outreach opportunities
such as conservation education to the community and agriculture in the schools.

Mr. Levi Blackmon stated the 4-H/FFA land judging event will be taken place over in
Santa Rosa County next Friday, February 24.

Old Business

Discussions held on the three vacant Board seats, which are seats 1, 3, and 5. Mr. Tharp
and Mr. Odom have been reviewing possible individuals.

Mr. Odom will be looking further into the inactive blogs/sites relating to the Escambia
Soil and Water Board. Those sites will hopefully be able to be removed. The only
approved, active site is the Escambia Soil and Water Board webpage.

Discussion held on updating the current bank's contact information.

New Business

Mr. Odom gave an update to the Area AFCD meeting held in Gainesville, FL. Discussion held on the Sunshine Law, activities of other Districts such Hillsborough, and funding sources.

Discussion on searching potential grants which are needed to carry out the Board's potential projects.

Discussion on the top areas of relating to the county agriculture in which NRCS works closely with such as forestry, row crops, and livestock.

Discussion held on the priorities for the Board. The following were discussed:

Appoint individuals to the vacant seat to form a complete, active Board.

For the April meeting, three people will hopefully be named and appointed.

Select two projects, one a short tem which will be initiated within the year. The second, would be a long term project. This project would be carried out the following year. Both projects need to reflect the Board's main purpose and be manageable as well.

Focus on outreach not only to the community and schools but to outside agencies as well.

With no further business coming before the Board and with all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:38.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Tharp', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Travis Tharp, Chair and Acting Secretary