

**YRSWCD District
Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024**

Attendance:

Andy Baber, Chairman
David Clark, Vice Chairman
Josh Luke, Treasurer
Melody Irwin, Secretary
Brad Johnson, Board Member, Recorder
Darryl Williams, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Okaloosa County
Tara Llewellyn, YRSWCD District Administrator
Jim Davis, District CPA via telecom
Dr. Linda Johnson, Earth Team member

Absent: All board members present.

David Clark asked if there was a motion to open the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Josh Luke made a motion to open the meeting, which was seconded by Brad Johnson. The board approved the motion.

The first order of business was to appoint a new Chairman and Secretary. Josh Luke made a motion to appoint Andy Baber as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Brad Johnson and accepted by the board. Josh Luke made a motion to appoint Melody Irwin as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Brad Johnson and accepted by the board.

Meeting minutes. Minutes from 30 May 2024 were reviewed by the board. Brad Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Josh Luke and approved by the board.

Financial Report. Tara Llewellyn said she had sent the financial report for the last two months to the board earlier in the day. She also reported the district had received another letter from the IRS about 2018 short fall in district submissions. The district must pay penalty and late fees. The exact amount will depend upon pending penalties.

The final OPPAGA District Performance Review will be available in the near future. One finding was that the district needed a Budget for the next fiscal year. Linda Johnson will send the district budget for 2018, which justifies each budget item will be sent to Tara Llewellyn (completed) for distribution to other board members.

Old Business

YRSWCD Website update. Tara Llewellyn indicated she has been adding meeting minutes and financial reports to the AFCD YRSWCD Website.

Five-year YRSWCD Business Plan. The Five-year YRSWCD Business Plan for 2023-2028 was signed by author, Brad Johnson and Chairman Andy Baber.

New Business

Support agriculture educational programs. Josh Luke handed out a notional proposal to set up a Future Farmers of America student organization at Baker and Laurel High Schools. The proposal estimated it would take about \$150,000 to create the program. Jim Davis, the YRSWCD CPA, indicated funding could not be used for salaries, but other types of support may be okay. The district needed a 3-5-year funding plan and would have to inform the County what the district was doing with their funds and be able to monitor funding given to the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation. The District 2018 budget does provide for Classroom Education Projects, but they are limited given other funding commitments.

Conservationist’s Corner: Darryl Williams, District Conservationist

Darryl Williams, Dr. Linda Johnson and Brad Johnson set up the NRCS booth at Karick Lake on August 17, 2024, for Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday celebration. Literature and memorabilia were handed out. Several hundred people attended the event.

Darryl Williams said Farm Bill Programs for the year were winding down. There were 49 active contracts valued at \$1.58 million. He also indicated the office had hired as a new NRCS employee. She is Jennifer Miller, has a B.S. from Augusta University in Ecology and a good background in Natural Resource Management.

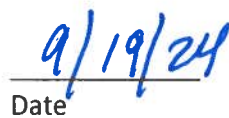
Adjourn

With discussions at an end, David Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Josh Luke and approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned about 8:00 PM.

Next Board Meeting: Date to be determined.



Andy Baber, Chairman



Date