

**YRSWCD District
Board Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2024**

Attendance:

Andy Baber, 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
Dr. Linda Johnson, Earth Team member

Absent: David Clark, Vice Chairman (out of town)

Andy Baber asked if there was a motion to open the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Josh Luke made a motion to open the meeting, which was second by Melody Irwin. The board approved the motion. The YRSWCD board meeting is usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. This out of sequence meeting was requested by Josh Luke to discuss support for an agriculture class at Baker or Laurel Hill High School.

Old Business

Meeting minutes. Minutes from 12 March 2024 were not available and will be reviewed by the next regular YRSWCD meeting.

Five-year YRSWCD Business Plan. Mr. Johnson said the updated final document was ready for signature.

OPPAGA District Performance Review. Tara Llewellyn, reported representatives from Mauldin & Jenkins and Subsidiaries, LLC, who had are conducted a performance review of the Yellow River Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the direction of Florida OPPAGA, had completed their audit of the YRSWCD. They thanked her for our response and indicated we were the only district that had supplied everything they had requested. The final OPPAGA survey should be available in June or July.

New Business

Support agriculture educational programs. Josh Luke said there was a need to revive an agriculture class at Baker and Laurel Hill High Schools. According to the 2022 Ag Census the average farmer age in the county was 62.9. There is a need to bring younger farmers into the occupation. However, to start an agriculture class a funding source, other than the Okaloosa County School Board, is needed to pay the teacher's salary for the first-year. Starting teacher salaries are about \$42,000/year. The YRSWCD Board agreed that funding and supporting such an effort was within our charter. Further discussion covered possible sources outside of YRSWCD that could also provide funding support.

Josh Luck made a motion for YRSWCD send the Okaloosa County School Board a letter of commitment to support a teacher for an agriculture class at Baker or Crestview High School. The motion was 2nd by Melody Irwin and approved by the Board.

Tara Llewellyn said she would write the letter. Dr. Linda Johnson suggested the 5-year plan be updated to specifically indicate the board would support agriculture related educational programs in Okaloosa County schools and organizations like: 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) in Okaloosa County. Brad Johnson indicated he will make the required additions.

Financial Report. Tara Llewellyn said she had received notification from the IRS that unpaid 2017 taxes were due; the exact amount will depend upon pending penalties.

Conservationist’s Corner: Darryl Williams, District Conservationist

Darryl Williams presented Dr. Linda Johnson the USDA Southeast NRCS district Volunteer of the Year award for her sustained NRCS support over the last 30 years.

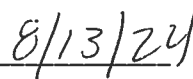
Adjourn

With discussions at an end, Melody Irwin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was 2nd by Josh Luke and approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Next Board Meeting: To be determined.



Andy Baber, Chairman



Date