

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

Attendance:

Andy Baber, Chairman
David Clark, Vice Chairman
Melody Irwin, Secretary
Josh Luke, Treasurer
Brad Johnson, Board Member, Recorder
Darryl Williams, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Okaloosa County
Tara Llewellyn, YRSWCD District Administrator
Linda Johnson, Guest Earth Team volunteer

Andy Baber opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.

The Board Meeting Minutes from the December 14, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Melody Irwin made a motion to accept the minutes which was 2nd by Josh Luke and accepted by the board. Andy Baber signed the minutes.

Old Business

Web site update. Tara Llewellyn contacted Streamline, which is the company hosting district web sites through AFCD support. Ms. Llewellyn indicated she will be sending meeting minutes to Streamline to post on the Yellow River Soil and Water Conservation district web site hosted on the AFCD website. Other documents needed for the District web site are listed on the AFCD web site.

Farm to Table Gala. Brad Johnson presented a letter from the Farm to Table Gala organizer, Mary Richard, thanking the District for supporting the event in November (attached).

Financial status. The reconciliation spread sheet for the District ending January 31, 2024 was handed out by Tara Llewellyn which showed a balance of \$108,797.44. Brad Johnson made a motion to accept the statement. The motion was 2nd by Melody Irwin and approved by the board.

New Business

District Performance Review. On January 28, 2024 Tara Llewellyn and YRSWCD board members received an email from Dave Jahosky. He is a partner at Mauldin & Jenkins which has been engaged by OPPAGA to conduct a performance review/audit of the State's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. As part of the audit they will be requesting records and data. Types of data were included in an attachment to the email. He wanted to setup either a virtual kickoff meeting with board members. Linda and Brad Johnson volunteered to help Tara Llewellyn gather the requested documents.

SB1075. Brad Johnson read part of the Analysis Section of Florida SB1075 that covered what changes the bill would make to the governance and operation of Florida SWCDs. Basically, the bill dissolves all existing SWCDs and transfers assets of each district to new respective regional SWCDs created by the bill or the county in which the district is located. Additional wording defined how this change would be enabled. If passed, the bill would become effective July 1, 2024.

Employee Pay Increase. Both YRSWCD employees are part time. Our District tech has not had a pay increase for several years. His expertise in making onsite inspections has been critical in completing EQIP and CSP activities. Brad Johnson introduced a motion to increase Mr. Bowden’s hourly wage to \$25/hour and provide a 2023 end of year \$500 bonus to Mr. Bowden. Both YRSWCD employees (Gary & Tara) will receive the 2023 end of the year \$500 bonus. The motion was 2nd by Josh Luke. The motion was approved by the board. The pay increase will be effective February 12, 2024.

Financial disclosure & Ethics Training. Brad Johnson reported receiving an email on his YRSWCD account from the State of Florida about the need to file Form 1 (Financial Disclosure statement) electronically. A completed form is required from all Board members before July 1. Paper forms are no longer accepted. Access to the Form has a limited time link. He also received an email on his YRSWCD account about completing 4 hours of ethics training by December 31. The training can be completed in person (AFCD meeting) or online (link provided in email).

Conservationist’s Corner: Darryl Williams, District Conservationist

Darryl Williams said the office had 99 EQIP applications, which is the largest number he has ever seen. There were also 20 CSP applications that had to be completed. He also reported the need to have a Local Working Group meeting before May 1 possibly on a Thursday.

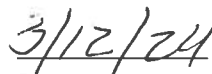
Adjourn

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 at 8:49 PM.

Next Board Meeting: March 12, 2024 at 7 PM.



Andy Baber, Chairman



Date

Attachment: Thank you letter to YRSWC District for supporting the November Farm to Table Gala