

# Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board of Supervisors September 2024 meeting minutes

Location: 2741 Penn Ave, Marianna, FL, 32448

Date: September 11, 2024

Time: 8:00 am

Board members present: Mack Glass, Steve Basford, Tom Stadskev, David DeFelix, and Jeff Pittman

Quorum: YES

Absent: 0

Administrative Staff: Peggy Gilley, Financial Analyst Administrator, Interim District Coordinator

Attendees: Garrett Williams, OAWP Environmental Consultant, Peter Scott, OAWP Environmental Consultant, Chris Denmark, FDACS Environmental Administrator, John Baggett, FDACS/OAWP Environmental Manager, Gary Chew, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Rex Patterson, JSWCD MIL Tech, Kevin Warren, JSWCD MIL Tech, Clay Milton, P.A., Doug Mayo, Jackson County UF/IFAS Director, Michael Felton, USDA NRCS.

Supervisor Glass called the meeting to order at 8:01 am. He welcomed attendees.

Supervisor Basford made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to accept the minutes for the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 14, 2024, as read and seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

**UF/IFAS:** Doug reported that the peanut harvest is cranking up, and Ethan is busy testing peanuts. There is a flyer in the Supervisor Packets about a BMAP meeting that is coming up, he encourages the board to attend. The Beef & Forage Field Day is on 10/24 in Greenwood. Farm City Banquet on Tuesday 11/19 at 6:00 pm at RCC. The Department of Ag is changing how they do pesticide license testing. Testing will close at this office on 12/30/2024. Supervisor Basford mentioned there was an email about testing in Gadsden County with no address listed. Doug will let Gadsden County know. Also, Septic tanks will no longer be handled through Jackson County Environmental Health, DEP will be handling it.

**NRCS:** It is the end of the program year, and they are out of funding. There was \$26 million spent in area 1, (Pensacola to Monticello). Anyone not approved for this pool will automatically be included in the 2026 funding, there is a deferral letter going out to those not selected. No information as of right now on future funding.

**NWFWMD:** Gary let the board know the cost share on cover crops closes at the end of September. They went to the Farm Bureau meeting last week, and Water Management Districts across the state gave reports. The majority of their grant went towards cover crops, they will be limiting the number at the first in the next round. There was a discussion about producers double dipping with all the programs spread across the different entities, but no one has tackled how to develop a list to go to. Michael added when FDACS has given them a list of producers, he can check their system to see what programs they have been awarded in the past.

**BMP:** John reported that all of the advance money from the last contract has been returned to Districts. He passed out the cost share spreadsheet without anything on it because Northwest Florida Soil & Water

Districts have not started working on it yet. The FDACS BMP people will be in Crystal River next week in meetings, they will come back and hit the ground running. Chris reports that a document regarding the data collector came across on Friday afternoon and it looks good. There will not be a lot of extra information to track, mostly what the producers are already doing. No maps or soil tests were mentioned. There will be problems to start with. The items on the cost share list can change quarterly. Doug Mayo asked about the portal for the producers to apply. Chris replied through the FDACS website, to type cost share in the search bar, and they navigate through that. The questions for the different percentages are not there yet which they are working on.

**MIL:** August is finished, they have now started on September.

**Financial:** The board took a few minutes to look at the financial report. Peggy reports that the advance money was deposited on 8/30/2024. Per the contracts department, all invoices from June of 2023 to July 2024 are officially caught up and paid. The August BMP & MIL invoices will be submitted by the end of this week. The annual support check from the county for the employee they supply for admin work has been received, it is the same amount as last year. Copies of August bank statements are in the Supervisors' packets too. Kudos were given for the August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Financial Report. D&O Policy carried out with Milton Insurance is up for renewal. Legal advised that we pay that.

Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to sign and pay for the D&O policy to be renewed, and Supervisor Basford seconded. Carried unanimously.

**Interim District Coordinator:** Peggy let the board know that there are no checks to be signed. Everything has been almost successfully moved to autopay. There are a lot of fliers in the supervisor packets. Peggy asked the board members to take those home and read them through. There is an Apalachicola Watershed meeting on 10/03 at Eastpointe from 3 pm to 6 pm EST that Peggy plans on going to. From FL Commerce there is a page of information regarding the changes from the bill that was passed in the last session. Two FASD fliers, 10/22/2024 is their annual meeting in St. Augustine, and they have a Certified Dist. Administrative Professionals Program in January 2025. The deadline to sign up for the January program is in December, Peggy asked if there is a new District Coordinator by then that both the district coordinator and she should attend. The deadline is 12/01. It will be brought up again in the November board meeting. AFCD has an annual meeting coming up on 11/01 & 11/02 in San Destin. They need to have supervisors committed to attending the meeting. Information is in the packets provided. Supervisor Glass informed the supervisors that the district would cover the registration fee for any attending board member. Two thank you letters have come in, 1 from Ethan Carter for sponsoring his 2024 event and 1 from John Alter. Last year the district coordinator position of the administrator of Forestry in The Classroom for the fourth grade in Jackson County. Peggy had too many plates spinning and the kick-off meeting date arrived too fast. There was no sponsor for lunch. The Chairman approved sponsoring the lunch for the foresters and landowners who attended. It was an appreciated gesture. Next year we have Enviva committed to hosting. JSWCD purchased 3 boxes of Elementree paper as a gift to the teachers of FITC. Peggy asked the board to add the Elementree paper to the budget as a sponsor for FITC in the future. All members agreed. Peggy was in Gainesville for the FCDEA annual meeting on 9/03 and 9/04 and learned about state recording keeping procedures, district finances, a program that Palm Beach Soil & Water is putting together and had a Teams meeting with the state contract department.

**Supervisors:** No report.

**Unfinished Business:** There are three interviews scheduled on Monday 9/16 for District Coordinator, Supervisor Pittman and Peggy will attend at the Jackson County Admin. Two BMP tech applications were received. The board agreed to schedule the interviews. Peggy will be getting those two interviews arranged.

**New Business:** There is no electronic copy of the Personnel Policy. Peggy has two copies that she and Alisha signed when they were hired. She typed up the entire policy and noted changes that have been discussed over the last six months. The changes are highlighted to stand out. There is a copy of the original and the drafts in the Supervisors' packets. Review the packets and at the next meeting further discussion will take place in regard to the Personnel Policy. Fuqua and Milton and meeting dates: Does it please the board to continue our agreement with F&M? Supervisor Pittman made a motion to retain Fuqua & Milton, seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. Carried Unanimously.

There is a discussion about the board meeting dates. First, the October meeting was discussed. It would be harvesting time at that point. Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to cancel the board meeting for October 2024, seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.

The group determined Wednesday mornings were their best option for 2025 meeting dates. Peggy will work on getting the dates for November 24 through December 2025 booked.

The annual NACD membership will be due before the next meeting. They have raised the \$750.00 minimum membership to \$775.00 this year. Supervisor Pittman made a motion to send the minimum for our membership, and Supervisor DeFelix seconded. Carried unanimously.

Our AFCD membership will be due too, there was some discussion. Supervisor Basford made a motion to send the 350.00 for our AFCD membership so we can vote on matters, Supervisor DeFelix seconded. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 9:00 am.

**11/13/2024: Motion to approve minutes by Supervisor Pittman, seconded by Supervisor Basford. Carried unanimously.**