

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Office – Peanut Hall 2741 Penn Ave, Marianna, FL, 32448

Date: April 09, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

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

Quorum: YES (All present)

Absent: -0-

Staff Present: Peggy Gilley, Financial Analyst Administrator, Haylee Sapp, District Coordinator, Rex Patterson, JSWCD MIL Team Leader, Kevin Warren, JSWCD MIL Tech, Katie Moore, JSWCD BMP Tech.

Attendees: Doug Mayo, Jackson County UF/IFAS Director, Ethan Carter, Ag agent, Gary Chew, NFWWMD – Environmental Specialist II – District AG Cost Share Program, John Baggett, FDCAS/OAWP - Environmental Manager, Peter Scott, FDACS/OAWP – Environmental Consultant, Michael Felton, Supervisory District Conservationist, Clay Milton, Fuqua & Milton, PA, Cottondale FFA.

Supervisor Basford called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Supervisor Glass motioned to approve the agenda; Supervisor DeFelix seconded. It carried unanimously.

Supervisor DeFelix motioned to approve the March 10, 2025, meeting minutes as read; Supervisor Glass seconded. It carried unanimously.

UF/IFAS: Doug reports that on 05/01, the UF/IFAS Extension Office will be hosting the Forage Legume Conference at 7:30 am. The event will feature four speakers, a tour of research plots at the North Florida Research and Education Center, and an industry trade show. On 05/06, the UF/IFAS Extension Office will also be hosting the Perennial Peanut Field Day. This event will include tours of local farms. Ethan reports that the pesticide training website is undergoing a technical error due to complications. The agents' profiles were transferred incorrectly and are unable to assess any administrative qualities. It is unknown when this issue will be resolved. He also announced that the website is no longer mailing paper notifications and will switch to electronic notifications. Due to this, FDACS is mailing producers about registration and updating information. Producers will need emails to receive pesticide licenses.

NRCS: Michael reports that NRCS is changing due to more federal cuts. No one is sure what the future of NRCS looks like. They are still completing EQIP applications, and there are 132 applicants. There are also 6 CSP applications, 4 are contracted.

NFWWMD: Gary reports that they just finished cover crops, still working on payouts. They will start on equipment cost-share applications next. He reminded everyone in attendance that producers can only apply once a calendar year for equipment cost share.

Cottondale FFA: The President of the Cottondale FFA is requesting support from the board for their 2025 donation. This donation will help the school club with contests, leadership conferences, conventions, and banquets. Supervisor Basford informed the President that the board will take the request under consideration.

BMP/FDACS/OAWP: John reports that 12 producers have done applications. 8 cost shares have been completed. 4 are in the process, and Garrett added 2 to use up our allocation. There are new manuals being sent out. Due to this, they are registering producers under the new program. All the employees are switching to tablets for data entry and are going paperless. There is a training on 04/10 for FDACS employees regarding the new program.

MIL: Rex reports that everything is running smoothly and that March is completed.

Financial: The 2/28/25 ending balances totaled \$664,057.56. The March debits totaled \$262,767.92. The March credits totaled \$296,378.59. The 3/31/25 account balances totaled \$697,668.23. Upon payments of Cost Share Reimbursements, BMP & MIL invoice totals, and no expenses, the total would be \$742,367.18. Less the advance balance of \$253,770.00, the available balance of all the accounts at the discretion of the board is \$488,497.18.

Chairman Basford asked the board to consider the Cottondale FFA request here in the Financial Report. Supervisor Pittman motioned to donate \$500.00 to Cottondale FFA; Supervisor Glass seconded. It carried unanimously.

District Coordinator: Haylee reports that on 03/18, she attended the Farm Bureau Day with Katie. It was an amazing opportunity to see the representatives in support of Bill 986.

Supervisors: Supervisor Basford informs the board that the change of electricity service fee on his farm bill went from \$500 to \$1,000. He wants to discuss this matter further with the board. Supervisor Pittman wants to know if they can request rates from the last five to ten years to see what has changed. Supervisor Basford wants to reach out via mail or request a face-to-face meeting to discuss things further with WFEC and FPL. Supervisor Glass motioned for a letter to be drafted; seconded by Supervisor DeFelix. It carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Supervisor Stadslev discussed with the First Federal Bank Committee the matter of the donation request for the Graceville School playground. The committee will be donating to help. Due to the matter not being tied to agriculture, the board will not be donating towards the playground equipment.

New Business: Peggy reports that there is no documentation for a mission statement for JSWCD. In the OPPAGA Report, we answered that we do not have a copy of our mission statement, and the board was going to meet to get that done. In the supervisor packets, there is a page with some of the other Soil and Water Conservation Districts' mission statements. Some are short, some are more detailed. The board would like the staff to draft a mission statement for JSWCD to vote on at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:40 AM.