

# Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board of Supervisors November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Office - Clover Suite (2741 Penn Ave, STE. 3, Marianna, FL 32448)

Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

Board members present: Steve Basford, Mack Glass, Michael Thompson, Jeff Pittman

Quorum: YES

Absent: David DeFelix

Staff present: Haylee Sapp, District Coordinator, Peggy Gilley, Financial Analyst Administrator, Katie Moore, BMP Technician, Rex Patterson, MIL Team Leader, and Kevin Warren, MIL Technician.

Attendees present: Abbey Smith, Horticulture Agricultural Agent, Clay Milton, Fuqua & Milton P.A., Gary Chew, NFWFMD – Environmental Specialist II & AG Cost Share Program, John Baggett, FDACS/OAWP – Environmental Manager, Peter Scott, FDCAS/OAWP Environmental Consultant, and Shayn Baggett, FL Farm Bureau Field Representative.

Supervisor Basford called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Supervisor Glass motioned to approve the agenda; Supervisor Thompson seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor Thompson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 10, 2025. Supervisor Glass seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

NFWFMD: Gary reports that there are no updates. Supervisor Pittman inquired about Cost Share funding. He responded that there is still funding available. They are currently prioritizing cover crops.

Guest(s): Abbey requests sponsorship from the JSWCD board for the 2026 Tri-State Fruit & Vegetable Conference that will take place on January 29, 2026, with registration being at 7:30 AM CST. At the conference, new grants will be discussed. This will include a vendor table within the conference, organization recognition, and advertisement of our logo.

Supervisor Pittman motions to sponsor the 2026 Tri-State Fruit & Vegetable Conference at \$200.00; Supervisor Glass seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

BMP with FDACS/OAWP: Katie reports that multiple IVs have been completed. John reports that there have been several Cost Share agreements completed. They are waiting for other agreements to be finalized.

MIL: Rex reports that they are ahead of schedule. Supervisor Pittman asked about calibrator correction due to 600 compliance letters being sent out from the district. Rex and Kevin are still executing the calibrator corrections. They are working alongside the Water Management District to complete these evaluations. Supervisor Pittman suggested writing a letter to Mr. Camilo Gaitan at OAWP and Mr. Jerrick Saqwibal at NFWFMD regarding recognition for the two MIL technicians for their efforts on this matter. Supervisor Basford would like further research done on this matter.

Supervisor Glass motioned to have a letter of recognition drafted by Peggy Gilley and Rex Patterson; Supervisor Thompson seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Financial: Peggy reports that the bank account balances ended on October 31, 2025, at \$745,297.87. They completed two Cost Share agreements, which were quickly reimbursed. The district's 5% was \$1,996.25. The invoices for the BMP & MIL October expenses were uploaded on November 04, 2025. The 5% was \$1,359.92. The operating expenses and lawyer fees for October were \$3,749.94. Apparel and promotional purchases were made for the upcoming event season. The September ending balances totaled \$744,839.86. October's total debits were \$223,612.03. October credits were \$224,070.04, and on October 31, 2025, balances totaled \$745,297.87. With the BMP & MIL invoice reimbursements of \$28,558.21, the Less Advance balances total \$276,748.55, which leaves the balance of \$497,107.53 at the discretion of the board.

District Coordinator: Haylee reports that September and October events, Forestry in the Classroom (FITC) Kick-Off, Panhandle Youth Expo (PYE), and the FITC Week were successes. For upcoming events, the 2025 Farm City Banquet will take place on November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM CST, and the 2026 Tri-State Fruit & Vegetable Conference will take place on January 29, 2026, with registration at 7:30 AM CST. A discussion is taking place between Chris Franklin and her about the logistics of the upcoming Land Judging competition. Haylee informs the board that she is researching hydroponic gardening and looking to partner with a community organization or school to have a community garden. She is looking to facilitate a community clean-up of local bodies of water for Earth Day and World Water Day.

Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Glass has announced his intent to resign from the JSWCD board on January 01, 2026, to Supervisor Basford and the present supervisors. Supervisor Pittman reports that he and Farm Bureau had a dinner with Senator Truenow over sixty days ago to inquire about his stance on Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). He is adamant about pursuing the redistricting of the SWCDs. There is concern that redistricting could harm the compliant SWCDs if they absorb the surrounding noncompliant districts. Additionally, Supervisor Pittman informs the board that Marianna K-8 has a teacher putting together an agricultural education program, which is taking place on November 18, 2025.

Supervisor Pittman motions to support the ag education program at \$200.00; Supervisor Thompson seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Supervisor Basford will sign the document, as it was voted on in a previous meeting. James E. Davis, CPA, is an auditor who is being used by several other SWCDs, as well as other organizations.

Supervisor Pittman motioned to give Supervisor Basford authority to hire James Davis as an auditor; Supervisor Thompson seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

New Business: Supervisor Basford has contacted the Chairman of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD), but no contact has been returned. The membership registration is to show intent to join once knowing where the legislation will end up.

Supervisor Glass motions on sending a letter of intent to join AFCD; Supervisor Pittman seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor Basford would like information regarding the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and what measures they are taking to help Florida SWCDs stay in service for the Florida Producers before furthering the membership.

Supervisor Glass motions for contacting NACD to gather more information; Supervisor Pittman seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

House Bill 123 has been released. There is a possibility that the redistricting of the SWCDs will take place next legislative session. Supervisor Pittman will ask for more information on how Farm Bureau stands on sending letters inquiring about House Bill 123. The JSWCD Supervisors would like to write letters to our local legislators.

Adjourned at 8:49 AM.