

Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

May 11, 2026

9:30 AM

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals wishing to address the Board will need to sign in. A three-minute time limit will be administered to each of these individuals. PLEASE MUTE ALL PHONES. This agenda acts as guidance for the structure of the meeting. Thank you.

With the new changes regarding open carry in the State of Florida, the District would like to remind those in attendance that that open carry is NOT permitted in Special District Meetings per Florida Statute 790.06(12)(A){7}.

1) Call to Order

a) Roll Call

1. Chairman, Vivi Serena, called the meeting to order at 9:35AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; Amy Davis, Secretary, and Lenora Deonath, Supervisor (arrived 9:39AM). Others in attendance were Conor Thornton-Fraser, citizen; Deborah Edwards, citizen; Sierra Ayers, NRCS; Rachael Tuck, MSWCD staff, and Ann Bishop, MSWCD staff.

b) Proof of Publication

Proof of Publication was given. It appeared in the Ocala Gazette on December 25, 2025. The Florida Administrative Weekly, NRCS, and Marion County Board of County Commissioners received notice of the annual meetings on November 24. This meeting was again noticed on May 1 in both, the Ocala Gazette and the FL Administrative Weekly. The meetings are also posted on the District's website, and the agenda was uploaded on May 4, 2026.

c) Welcome

The Board welcomed the new attendees to the meeting.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to appoint Conor Thornton-Fraser to the MSWCD Board, Seat 2. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

2) NRCS Report

a) Report

Sierra Ayers gave the NRCS report.

b) District Reporting

Ann Bishop gave a recap on District Reporting.

1. Irrigation Invoicing
NRCS is asking Districts to provide irrigation invoices, so they can better determine costs.
2. NACD
NACD inquired from districts about services that the partnership provides to one another.

c) Local Working Group

The Local Working Group is scheduled for May 12 at 1 PM located at the USDA/Service Center.

3) FDACS Report

Ann Bishop gave a FDACS report on cost share and presented the Board with the letter for FDACS.

- a) Report
- b) Letter

PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that MSWCD approve the FDACS letter as presented and send it to FDACS on behalf of the Board. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

4) Outreach Programs

a) Buzz & Bloom (Recap)

Rachael Tuck gave a recap. Ann Bishop mentioned that Rainbow Springs State Park might ask for insurance next year, and the entry into the park has changed. Amy Davis stated that she will find out about obtaining insurance from an agent they have used for FFA named Justin but stated we will need the number of attendees which Rachael will get from the Park.

b) NSF/Well Workshop (Update)

Ann Bishop gave a recap of the NSF grant while Rachael Tuck gave a recap on the well workshop. Ann Bishop will (re)send the Board a copy of the evaluations from the well workshops.

c) Project Learning Tree

Ann Bishop can an update on Project Learning Tree.

d) CAPE

Vivi Serena gave the okay on April 25, 2026, for staff to attend the CAPE (Community Action Projects for the Environment- for youth) workshop on Friday, May 15, 2026.

e) Florida Pollinator Watch/Pollinator Gardens

The Florida Pollinator Watch is open to those who attended the Pollinator Academy and will be held on Wednesday, May 27th, 2026, from 9AM -12PM at the UF/IFAS Extension Marion County office.

MC Parks and Recreation are looking for volunteers to implement a pollinator garden. Amy Davis asked if Ann Bishop can get information for the students to possibly volunteer. Ann will reach out to Susan Heyen who is organizing the event for more information.

PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that MSWCD approve supervisors and/or staff to attend the Pollinator Watch Workshop and/or pollinator garden event on behalf of the Board. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

- f) Plant to Plate/Florida-Friendly Food Scaping
The Plant to Plate will be held on May 20, which conflicts with the Corridor Connect -Landowner Expo. However, this program will also be held again in the Fall. It costs \$55 to attend and is from 9AM -4PM.

The Florida Friendly Food Scaping is free online, May 22 from 10AM -11:30AM.

PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that MSWCD approve supervisors and/or staff to attend the Plant to Plate and/or Florida-friendly Food Scaping on behalf of the Board. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

5) Meetings

- a) MCBCC April 21 Meeting (Recap)
Ann Bishop gave a recap of the MCBCC Meeting.
- b) FCDEA (Recap)
Ann Bishop and Rachael Tuck gave a recap of the FCDEA Meeting.
- c) Preferred Educational Workshop (Recap)
Ann Bishop gave a recap of the Preferred Educational Workshop.
- d) SJRWMD Conservation Coordinator (Recap)
Rachael Tuck gave a recap of the SJRWMD Conservation Coordinator Meeting.
- e) Southeastern Partnership For Forests and Water (Recap)
Rachael Tuck gave a recap of the Southeastern Partnership For Forests and Water.
- f) Corridor Connect – Landowner Expo
The Corridor Connect and Landowner Expo will be held on May 20. Vivi Serena approved staff to attend the expo on April 24, 2026. Ann Bishop was provided a free link to the event and Horse Farms Forever extended an invite to for the Board to attend. FSU also sent out a survey asking for feedback regarding the agency's feedback by May 31. Ann Bishop will resend the link to the survey.
- g) AFCD/FCDEA Annual Meeting
The AFCD/FCDEA Annual Meeting will temporarily be held on August 25-26 in St. Augustine.
TABLED: MSWCD approve supervisors and/or staff to attend the AFCD/FCDEA annual meeting in August.
- h) NACD Midyear Meeting
Ann Bishop gave an overview about the NACD Midyear Meeting.

- i) SENACD Annual Meeting
SENACD Annual Meeting will be held on August 9-13 in Cherokee, NC.
TABLED: MSWCD approve supervisors and/or staff to attend the SENACD annual meeting in August.
- j) SECDEA Annual Meeting
SECDEA Annual Meeting will be held on November 2-5 in Pigeon Forge, TN.
TABLED: MSWCD approve supervisors and/or staff to attend the SECDEA annual meeting in November.

6) Staff Report & Recap

- a) FASD Legislation (Recap)
An FASD legislative report was sent out to membership.
- b) Rainbow River Cleanup (Reminder)
A reminder that the Rainbow River Cleanup is Saturday, May 16 at 9 AM Rio Vista Beach Park, Dunnellon.
- c) Election Qualifications (Reminder)
A reminder was given about election qualifications and what is needed to qualify.
- d) Comprehensive Plan Amendment
The approved comprehensive Plan Amendment was sent via email.
- e) ADA/Doc Access
Doc Access was discussed and the Board decided to wait on this.
- f) 501c3
Ann Bishop mentioned that the grant proposal was denied for the 501c3. Vivi Serena stated that the District needs to apply for other grants.
- g) CPA
Ann Bishop gave an update on finding a CPA.
- h) Year in Review
The year in review was discussed, and a few photos need to be updated.
PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that MSWCD approve the Year in Review as discussed in the meeting and upon completion for it to be sent to the County Commissioners and Administration. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.
- i) Tax Reporting

Ann Bishop gave an update on tax reporting.

j) Miscellaneous

7) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) MSWCD Board Minutes
- b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the consent agenda as presented. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.

8) Upcoming Events

The Board reviewed the upcoming events.

MSWCD Monthly Meeting – April 13
SJRWMD Water Conservation Coordinator Meeting – April 15
Small Farm Mini-Conference – April 15
FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference – April 16
Buzz & Bloom – April 18
501c3 Report Due – April 20
Urban Landscape Summit – April 21-22
ADA Deadline – April 24
FCDEA Annual Meeting – April 27-28
Employer Tax Due – April 30
Preferred Education Day – May 4-5
Bellevue Well Workshop – May 7
MSWCD Monthly Meeting – May 11
Qualification Petitions Due – May 11
Local Working Group – May 12
CAPE Workshop – May 15
Rainbow River Cleanup – May 16
FCDEA Monthly Meeting – May 18
Plant to Plate – May 20
Landowner Expo – May 20
Corridor Connect – May 20
Florida-Friendly Food Scaping – May 22
Memorial Day – Office Closed Holiday – May 25
Florida Pollinator Watch – May 27
UF Farm Tour – May 27
FSU Wildlife Corridor Survey Due – May 31
DMS Training - June 1-2
5500/Sales Use/990N Due – June 1

Project Learning Tree Tentative Training – June 4
Good Housekeeping Matters/Customer Service Team – June 11
FASD Annual Conference – June 7-11
MCBCC Budget Workshop – July 16
NACD Midyear Meeting – July 17-21
SENACD Annual Conference – August 9-13
AFCD/FCDEA Annual Meeting – August 25-26
SECDEA Annual Conference – November 2-5

9) General Public Comments

10) Supervisor Comments

11) Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting is July 13, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the Growth Services Building.

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:24 AM, until our next meeting.

MSWCD's regular meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the 2nd Monday each month, and their workshops are held on the 4th Monday each month at 9:30 AM, tentatively. Both meetings are in Growth Services, located at 2710 E. Silver Springs, Ocala, FL 34470. For more information, call (352) 438-2475.