

Minutes
Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Regular Board Meeting
2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard
Ocala, FL 34470
February 12, 2024
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 a guidance for the structure of the meeting. Thank you.

Chairman Vivi Serena called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

▪ **Roll Call**

Vivi Serena, Chairman/Treasurer
Lee Black, Secretary
Justin Albright, Public Relations

Absent

Richard McGinley, Vice-Chairman David
Shults, Supervisor

Others in Attendance

Sierra Ayers, NRCS
Ann Bishop, MSWCD Staff
Stefani Duarte, MSWCD Staff

▪ **Proof of Publication**

Star-Banner – On February 11, an email was sent regarding this meeting.
Florida Administrative Weekly – It was posted in the FL Admin Weekly on December 29.
NRCS – On January 8, an email was sent regarding this meeting.
Marion County Board of County Commissioners – On December 18, an email was sent regarding this meeting.

II. NRCS Report

▪ **Program Recap**

Sierra Ayers gave a recap. She mentioned that the State Conservationist stated that Marion County has over six thousand registered producers the highest in the State. NRCS mentioned that an invite will be sent to the Equine Association, Cattleman's Association and the local Forester regarding the local working group.

▪ **Local Working Group**

➤ **PROPOSED MOTION: Lee Black moved that MSWCD work in conjunction with NRCS and hold the 2024 Local Working Group on May 18 at Green Clover. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.**

III. FDACS Report

▪ **Cost Share Update**

Ann Bishop gave the recap from Tammy Hinkle regarding FDACS and cost share. Tammy is still awaiting on the tech funds to be released into cost share.

▪ **Equine BMPs**

NRCS State Conservationist stated that he wants to assist with Equine BMPs and will adopt other states' programs if applicable here. Vivi Serena mentioned that PN, VA, KY, AK, and CA all have strong equine industries. Vivi asked were we would be able to obtain this information on programs in other states. Sierra Ayers mentioned through connections or networking, and/or if the Board knows of any practices being utilized. Sierra also mentioned NRCS EFTOG has all adopted state practices offered through NRCS. Vivi Serena asked Ann Bishop to look into this further.

- **Adam Moon Lake Ranch, LLC – Citrus – \$30,000 – Portable Corral**

The Board asked Ann Bishop if she could send them a copy of the bids that the producer obtained for the portable corral and once the project is completed to send them photos, as well.

- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the presented cost share agreement(s). Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.**

IV. Staff Report & Recap

- **Legislation (Update)**

Ann Bishop gave an update on the legislation bills: HB 1075/SB 1772 is dying in committees but might resurface next year, and HB 7013/SB 1058 is moving along with no objections.

- **OPPAGA (Update)**

Ann Bishop presented the organizational chart to the Board and gave an update on OPPAGA. Vivi Serena, Ann Bishop and Stefani Duarte will meet with OPPAGA today after this board meeting. Ann needs the qualifications that each Board member checked when they qualified for their position.

- **AFCD Quarterly Meeting (Recap)** Stefani Duarte gave a recap.

- **Website Domain (Update)**

Stefani Duarte gave an update and stated the Board should receive notification by February 20.

- **CF Grant (Update)**

Ann Bishop gave an update, stating that CF should be sending us more details when the grant become official in April. Ann Bishop suggested a student might be able to come up with a solution to our Equine BMP issue and/or a program.

- **Classes**

- **UF Master Naturalist Program (Recap)** Ann Bishop gave a recap.

- **How to Conduct a Pollinator Outreach (Recap)** Stefani Duarte and Ann Bishop gave a recap.

- **Upcoming**

- **County Training**

Ann Bishop and Stefani Duarte need to complete their monthly, safety training for the County.

- **BMP Mini Grant**

The BMP Mini Grant will be held at no cost on February 29, online, from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

- **Growing Together Symposium**

The Growing Together Symposium will be held on August 1 in Apopka. This agenda item was tabled.

- **FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference**

The FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference will be held on April 17 at the Gulf Coast Research & Education Center, which is near Tampa, about a two-hour drive. It is \$40 for an online registration and \$60 for an in person one.

- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve staff or supervisors to attend the FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.**

- **Preferred Member Education Day**

This training is offered through our insurance company. Registration is open until April 1 and the event is on May 2 from 8 AM to 2:30 PM in Lake Mary.

- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve staff to attend the Preferred Member Education Day. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.**

- **Outreach Programs**

- **SpringsFest (Update)**

Ann Bishop gave an update. SpringFest is March 2 and 3 at Silver Springs State Park. Volunteers are needed. Vivi Serena stated that she can assist on March 3. Colleen Stenstream mentioned previously that she can assist on March 2. Sierra Ayers stated that her office can assist us loading the truck on March 1 at the storage unit.

- **SWCS Program (Update)**

Ann Bishop gave an update. The SWCS program is scheduled for April 13 from 12 pm – 3 pm at Silver Springs State Park. Volunteers are needed. Vivi Serena stated that she will help. Stefani Duarte will reach out to the FFA teachers through Driver Fallon. Stefani will also send an invite to Karen Bird and the local 4-H office.

- **Youth Safety Day (Update)**

Ann Bishop gave an update on the Youth Safety Day she attended and the Ag Progressive Safety training that Stefani Duarte and she took.

- **Contests (Update)**

- Awards

- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD not hold an award's ceremony, and just take these awards to local schools for them to present. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.**

- **Poster/Found Art**

Ann Bishop stated that the judging for the posters and the found art will take place after today's meeting. These will also be displayed at the SpringFest.

- **Conservation Landscape Tray**

Ann Bishop and Stefani Duarte confirmed the judges for the Conservation Landscape Tray and asked that all judges arrive around 9 AM on February 21.

- **Envirothon**

- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD hire K.H. Corbin Catering for 70 meals at \$12/meal for the Envirothon and allow staff to purchase awards for those stations who could not supply winners with one. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.
- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD pay the State Registration fees for both the Alachua and the Marion First Place Winning Teams. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.

Vivi Serena stated that she will be out of town the day of Envirothon.

- **Supervisors**

- **Ethics Training**

The Board was reminded about the Supervisor Ethics Training. Justin Albright asked when they needed it completed by. Ann Bishop stated she was not sure, but that it might be within the first thirty days of taking office. Vivi Serena asked Ann to resend an email to Richard McGinley and Daniel Shults about this training.

- **Hours**

The Board reviewed their hours from the 2023 District Board meetings.

- **Miscellaneous**

The library might contact the District again regarding an outreach programs. The County Budget is due May 1, and Ann Bishop will present it at the April meeting. Vivi Serena also asked Ann Bishop to attend the Budget Hearing in July.

- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD remove FDACS from “FDACS Contract Labor” and replace it with just “Contract Labor” in the by-laws. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. MSWCD Board Minutes
- ii. MSWCD Board Financial Report

- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD consent agenda be approved as presented. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.

VI. Upcoming Events

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

- BMP Quarterly Meeting – February 7
- SpringsFest Meeting – February 9
- NACD Annual Meeting – February 10-14
- MSWCD Monthly Meeting – February 12
- Taxes Due to IRS – February 15
- Conservation Tray Drop Off – February 20
- FCDEA Meeting – February 20
- Conservation Tray Judging – February 21
- SEYF Conservation Tray Award – February 26
- Ag BMP Minigrant Conference – February 29
- Conservation Tray Pick Up – March 2
- SpringFest – March 2-3

- MSWCD Monthly Meeting – March 11
- 990 N Due – March 15
- SWCS Conservation Program – April 13

VII. General Public Comments

VIII. Supervisor Comments

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- Our next meeting is March 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Growth Services Building, unless determined otherwise during the meeting.

- With no other business needing addressed, Chairman Vivi Serena adjourned the meeting at 10:26 AM, until our next meeting.

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