

Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Regular Board Meeting
2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard
Ocala, FL 34470
February 9, 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

Chairman, Vivi Serena, called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer (^departed 10:34 am), Amy Davis, Secretary (*arrived 9:46 am), Jan Cabbage, Public Relations, and Lenora Deonath, Supervisor. Others in attendance were Sierra Ayers, NRCS, Rachael Tuck, MSWCD staff, and Ann Bishop, MSWCD staff.

b) 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. The meetings are also posted on the District's website, and the agenda was uploaded on February 2, 2026.

2) Complaint*

The Board reviewed and discussed the information regarding a complaint.

3) NRCS Report

Sierra Ayers gave an update on NRCS, stating she has fifty-five applicants for this year. She stated that they are still taking questions regarding their regenerative program. NRCS should be releasing their schedule for programs probably in the next few weeks, and Sierra will send it to us when she knows. She will also find out about the Local Working Group. Sierra also mentioned that FSA is looking for farmers to report their losses from the freeze; she mentioned that you can sign up at farmers.gov for information.

4) FDACS Report

An update was given on cost share.

5) Contests

a) Recap

1. Found Art & Posters
2. Envirothon

A recap was given on the contests. Jan Cubbage was given a thank you from the Envirothon attendees for purchasing donuts. The Board reviewed the news article on the Envirothon.

b) Conservation Landscape Trays Judging

A reminder was given on the Conservation Landscape Trays: dropped off is on February 17, and February 18 judging will occur: Sierra Ayers, Justin Albright and Brent London will be judging.

c) Award Ceremony

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD postpone the 2026 Awards Ceremony and distribute awards through the SEYF and the schools. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

6) Financials

a) MCBCC Budget

The MCBCC budget packet was reviewed. Ann Bishop mentioned she will have the projected budget for review at the next meeting and that it is due April 1.

b) Audit

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD sign the engagement letter to Jim Davis for him to conduct the MSWCD audit. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor. The auditor would like to have the information by March 14.

c) Auditor General

The findings from the Auditor General were reviewed along with the response letter written by our auditor to the Auditor General.

TABLED, until the next board meeting on March 9, 2026: MSWCD sign and send a reply to the Auditor General, in response to their findings.

d) Renewal CD

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD renew the Ameris CD for four months. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

The renewal is February 17.

7) Staff Report & Recap

a) Life Soils (Recap)

A recap was given on the Life Soils program.

b) NSF Grant (Recap)

A recap was given on the NSF Grant.

c) FFA District (Recap)

A recap was given on FFA District contest.

d) Biochar Meeting (Recap)

A recap was given on the meeting with Acciona. Acciona would like to meet end of February or at the beginning of March, possibly around March 2, since that is when they meet with UF. They offered to give MSWCD a tour of their facility.

e) FASD Legislation Forum (Recap)^

A recap was given on the FASD Legislation Forum. The FASD Legislative packet was reviewed.

f) Rural Land Meeting (Recap)

A recap was given on the Rural Land Meeting; the next meeting will be held in April.

g) Rain Barrels

An update was given on the Rain Barrels. Vivi Serena stated that maybe a feed store or another organization will contribute to the cost of this outreach.

h) Vehicle

The MSWCD vehicle was discussed. The Enterprise rental claim was paid in full and filed with the insurance.

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved that the MSWCD purchase tires for the F150. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.

i) Printer

Prior to the meeting, Vivi Serena approved for the belt to be changed on the Executive Administrator's printer for \$220-225. Fixit is also going to look at the other printer to see if it can be repaired. Rachael Tuck also looked into the cost of new printers.

j) Pollinator Academy

The Pollinator Academy was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that the MSWCD allow staff or supervisors to attend the Pollinator Academy on March 24 from 9 AM – 4 PM. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

k) Summer Camp

Ondine Wells' summer camp was discussed. The Board asked for staff to obtain more information on the camp.

TABLED, until the next board meeting on March 9,2026: MSWCD assist Ondine Wells with her Summer Camp, June 1-5.

l) Buzz & Bloom

The Buzz & Bloom event was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved that the MSWCD participate in the Buzz and Bloom in April, if feasible for staff. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved that the MSWCD purchase shirts for the Buzz and Bloom event. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.

m) Letter of Support

The Board reviewed the proposal of the UF Superfund Research Program.

PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved that MSWCD write a letter of support for Yilin Zhuang, regarding the UF Superfund Research Program. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

n) Miscellaneous

The Board was reminded of the hike and run on February 28.

The intern's birthday is next week, so Vivi Serena approved, prior to the Board meeting, for staff to purchase a cake.

8) CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

9) Upcoming Events

MSWCD Monthly Meeting – February 9
Quarterly Customer Service Strike Team – February 12
CD Renewal – February 17
NACD Annual Meeting – February 15-19
President’s Day – February 16
SEYF Setup – February 17
SEYF Judging – February 18
UF/IFAS Soil Conference – February 19-20
SEYF Awards – February 23
SEYF Awards – February 23
Growth Services Strike Team – February 26
Legislative Resolution Deadline – February 26
BMP Quarterly Meeting – February 27
SEYF Breakdown – February 28
Indian Lake Hike – February 28
Run for the Springs – February 28
Last Day Regular Legislative Committee Meetings – March 3
SpringsFest – March 7-8
MSWCD Monthly Meeting – March 9
Last Day Legislative Regular Session – March 13

10) General Public Comments

11) Supervisor Comments

12) Meeting Adjournment

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

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:54 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.