

Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

March 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}.

The Board did not have a quorum, so a discussion was only held with those in attendance, beginning at 9:37 AM and ending at 10:25 AM. Attendees: Vivi Serena, Justin Albright, Sierra Ayers, Rachael Tuck, Jordan Brantley, and Ann Bishop.

1) Call to Order

- a) Roll Call
- b) Proof of Publication

The meeting 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 March 2, 2026.

2) NRCS Report

A discussion was held on the District holding the Local Working Group in April. Since MSWCD has always taken the lead, Vivi Serena stated to continue host this event. Sierra Ayers and Ann Bishop will work together on the details, and the meeting will be held at NRCS Conference Room.

Sierra Ayers mentioned that NRCS would like to renew their MOUs with the districts. Ann Bishop and Sierra Ayers will work together on redoing this MOU.

3) FDACS Report

Ann Bishop gave a recap.

4) Contests

a) Conservation Landscape Trays

Ann Bishop gave a recap, mentioning that the displays need to be remade since we do not have enough to display the trays and the stands are falling apart. The Board discussed possibly have a local school do them or Justin suggested he might know someone. Ann Bishop and Rachael Tuck will get photos of the displays and take measurements.

b) Awards

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the awards.

5) Outreach Programs

a) Run for the Springs (Recap)

Justin Albright gave a recap.

b) Indian Lake Hike (Recap)

Rachael Tuck gave a recap. She mentioned that they had a display of Florida friendly landscaping and about twenty people showed. The Forestry service also did media outreach and mentioned the District on show.

c) Summer Camp (Tabled)

The Summer Camp was discussed and still tabled until next month's meeting.

d) Library Summer Series

Prior to this meeting, Vivi Serena approved for the District to participate in this event, staff signed up for Tuesday, July 21.

e) Marion County Days

Vivi Serena approved for the MSWCD to participate in the Marion County Days.

f) Farmland Preservation

The Board stated that this item can be revisited during next month's meeting.

6) Meetings

- a) Acciona Meeting (Recap)
Ann Bishop, Rachael Tuck and Jordan Brantley gave a recap.
- b) FCDEA Annual Meeting
The FCDEA Annual Meeting was discussed. Vivi Serena okayed staff to attend.
- c) SJRWMD Water Conservation Coordinators Meeting
The SJRWMD Water Conservation Coordinators Meeting was discussed. Vivi Serena okayed staff to attend.
- d) Preferred Educational Day
The Preferred Educational Day was discussed. Vivi Serena okayed staff to attend.
- e) Corridor Connect
The Corridor Connect Meeting was discussed. Vivi Serena okayed staff to attend.
- f) FASD Annual Meeting
The FASD Annual Meeting was discussed. Vivi Serena okayed staff to attend.

7) Financials

- a) CD Renewal (Recap)
Ann Bishop gave a recap.
- b) Audit (Recap)
Ann Bishop mentioned that staff will be sending the auditor the District's financials this week to conduct the District's audit.
- c) Auditor General (Tabled)
The letter to the Auditor General was reviewed.
- d) MCBCC Budget
The MCBCC Budget was presented. Justin Albright mentioned that we might want to hold a workshop to discuss the budget prior to the MCBCC Budget Meeting.

Justin Albright mentioned that when Stan McClain is back in Ocala, that he might schedule a visit to discuss cost share in Marion County. The Board asked Ann Bishop to inquiry from FDACS about the number of cost share applications that the State received from Marion County.

8) Staff Report & Recap

a) NSF Grant (Recap)

Ann Bishop gave a recap, mentioned that three well workshops were scheduled.

b) FASD Legislation (Recap)

Ann Bishop gave a recap and mentioned the last day of session is March 13.

c) Miscellaneous

Ann Bishop mentioned that the Buzz and Bloom flyer was attached for review; the 501c3 meeting was short, and the next one needs to be scheduled; the District signed up for the UF Project Learning Tree grant and awaiting federal approval, and the ADA compliance deadline is April 24. Ann Bishop also mentioned the IAAP Virtual Training, which the Board decided to discuss this at next month's meeting.

9) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes

b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

10) Upcoming Events

MSWCD Monthly Meeting – March 9
Customer Service Strike Team – March 12
Last Day Legislative Regular Session – March 13
Auditor Submission – March 14
FCDEA Monthly Meeting – March 16
Quarterly Growth Services Customer Service – March 18
Pollinator Academy – March 24
RLE Well Workshop – March 25
Marion County Days – March 28
Marion County Budget Due – March 30
FDACS Spreadsheet Due – April 1
Marion County Rural Lands – April 2
Good Friday – Holiday Office Closed – April 3
State Poster Contest Deadline – April 8
Customer Service Strike Team – April 9
MSWCD Monthly Meeting – April 13
Qualification Petitions Due – April 13
SJRWMD Water Conservation Coordinator Meeting – April 15
Bellevue Well Workshop – April 16
Buzz and Bloom – April 18
501c3 Report Due – April 20
ADA Deadline – April 24
FCDEA Annual Meeting – April 27-28
Employer Tax Due – April 30

11) General Public Comments

12) Supervisor Comments

13) Meeting Adjournment

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

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.