

Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

August 10, 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 9:38 AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; and Conor Thornton-Fraser, Supervisor. Secretary, Amy Davis and Supervisor, Lenora Deonath were absent. Others in attendance were Jorge "George" De Jesus Rosado (arrived at 9:53 AM), 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 August 3, 2026.

2) NRCS Report

a) Monthly Update

George De Jesus Rosado gave an update on NRCS programs and their reorganization.

b) Technical Committee (Recap)

Ann Bishop and Rachael Tuck gave a recap of the Technical Committee.

c) Conservation Practice Standard

NRCS is looking for recommendations for the Grazing Management & Pumping Plant standards.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve staff and/or supervisors to send recommendations about the NRCS practices. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

3) FDACS Report

Ann Bishop gave the FDACS report and mentioned that after the board meeting Lisa Jensen and Steve Smith will hold a Teams meeting to discuss cost share further.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to approve the FDACS cost share agreements that were signed by the Chairman and executed since the last meeting. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

4) Contests

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved for MSWCD to present the contest to the School Board once the contest packet is finalized. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

a) Budget (Tabled)

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve the second contest budget, the one that removes ribbons and keeps the prizes, for the 2026-2027 school year. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve cutting the photo contest awards completely and charging \$10 per person for food as a Envirothon registration fee. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

b) Calendar

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve the contest calendar for the 2026-2027 school year as it was presented and to collaborate with Horse Farms Forever regarding their summit contests. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

5) Outreach Programs

a) Belleview Library Event (Recap)

Ann Bishop and Rachael Tuck gave a recap of the event.

b) Well Workshop

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve staff attending the rescheduled workshop, at 7 PM on September 22. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

Vivi Serena reminded staff to take brochures and info to the workshop.

c) CAPE Flyer

The Board reviewed the CAPE flyer. Ann Bishop mentioned that Amy Davis also might have a student who would like to help the district with social media content.

6) Meetings

a) MSWCD (Time)

Ann Bishop mentioned that Amy Davis inquired about changing the meeting time; the Board discussed it.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to change the MSWCD meeting time to 3:30 PM on the second Monday monthly starting next month. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

The Board TABLED the idea about moving meetings to bi-monthly or quarterly.

b) MCBCC Workshop

1. Budget (Recap)

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the budget workshop.

2. September

Ann Bishop mentioned about the upcoming county board meetings and how it affects the District.

c) Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting (Recap)

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting.

d) IAAP Conference (Recap)

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the IAAP Conference.

e) FASD Leadership Conference

Ann Bishop mentioned that FASD has not sent out any additional information on their October meeting: "Education Leadership Conference"; other than the date and location, which is October 5-7 at the Marriott Hutchinson Island Resort & Beach Villas, Golf & Marina in Stuart, Florida.

f) SECDEA Annual Meeting (Tabled)

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve the Executive Administrator to attend the SECDEA Annual Conference in November. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

Ann Bishop mentioned the county's stance on traveling to conferences and what is considered compensable.

7) Staff Report & Recap

a) Promotional Items

Promotional items were discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to approve the Executive Administrator to purchase promotional items within the budget. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

b) Emerging Leaders Program

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve the Program Assistant to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

c) FASD

Ann Bishop mentioned about the emails that FASD sent.

d) Streamline

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to approve payment to Streamline for the annual website hosting and domain site in the amount of \$1,208. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

Streamline DocAccess was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to revisit the purchase of the DocAccess annual subscription. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to purchase DocAccess in the amount of \$840 for 5,000 pages. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

e) Boots & Suits

The Belleview High School FFA Suits & Boots was discussed. The event is August 22 at the SE Livestock Pavilion, starting at noon, but participants must be there at 11:30 AM. Vivi Serena, Ann Bishop and Conor Thornton-Fraser are interested, but Vivi needs to check her schedule.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to allow staff and/or supervisors to participate in Belleview High School's FFA Suits & Boots. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

f) 501c3

The District's 501c3 was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to allow staff to meet with Stan Creel to discuss the District's 501c3, but to revisit the non-profit's budget and its annual goals after the discussion with Stan. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

g) Miscellaneous

Ann Bishop mentioned that she was sent information at the Central Florida Trail Festival on April 23, 2027. The Board agreed to TABLED this, but to get more information regarding the event.

8) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept the minutes as presented. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept the financial report as presented. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

9) Upcoming Events

The Board reviewed the events.

SENACD Annual Conference – August 9-13

MSWCD Meeting – August 10

Growth Customer Service Meeting – August 13

FDACS Spreadsheet Due – August 15

AFCD Annual Meeting – August 25

FCDEA Annual Meeting – August 26

NCDEA Midyear Meeting – September 1-2

MSWCD Meeting – September 14

Growth Customer Service Meeting – September 16

Well Workshop – September 17

FCDEA Monthly Meeting – September 21

FASD Leadership Conference – October 5-7

MSWCD Meeting – October 12

Rainbow Springs Quest – October 14

SECDEA Annual Conference – November 2-5

10) General Public Comments

11) Supervisor Comments

12) Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting is September 14, 2026, at 3:30 PM in the Growth Services Building.

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:29 AM, until our next meeting.

MSWCD's regular meetings are held at 3:30 PM on the 2nd Monday each month, and their workshops are held on the 4th Monday each month at 3:30 PM, tentatively. Both meetings are in Growth Services, located at 2710 E. Silver Springs, Ocala, FL 34470. For more information, call (352) 438-2475.