

Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

Location:

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, FL 34470

Date:

May 13, 2024

Time:

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 9:30 AM.

I. Roll Call

• Present:

- Vivi Serena, Chairman/Treasurer
- Lee Black, Secretary, left at 11:19 AM
- Justin Albright, Public Relations, arrived at 9:33 AM
- David Shults, Supervisor, left at 11 AM

• Absent:

- Richard McGinley, Vice-Chairman

• Others in Attendance:

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

II. Proof of Publication

- Star-Banner – On February 11, an email was sent regarding this meeting; a reminder was sent on May 6.
- 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; a reminder was sent on May 6.
- Marion County Board of County Commissioners – On December 18, an email was sent regarding this meeting; a reminder was sent on May 6.

III. NRCS Report

- **Local Working Group (Update)**

- The Local Working Group will be held on Saturday, May 18, 1 -3 PM, at Green Clover. An update was given; Vivi Serena mentioned that we should place signage on 25th Ave and Fort King, so attendees know where they are going.

- **RCPP Grant (Recap)**

A recap of the RCPP Grant webinar was given.

- **2051 Program**

An overview was given on the 2051 Program. The SWSC Guide to DEI Conservation Delivery for Underserved Producers was also reviewed. The Sherrod Institute Farm Field Day was mentioned.

IV. FDACS Report

- An update on cost share, QuickBooks and the audit were given. Ann Bishop is still waiting to hear from FDACS regarding the audit; Vivi Serena asked for an update to be sent to the Board when it is available.

V. Staff Report & Recap

- **Meetings**

- Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference (Recap)
A recap was given.
- FCDEA Midyear Meeting (Recap)
A recap was given.
- Preferred Education Day (Recap)
A recap was given. Ann Bishop reached out to our insurance company since we might have to have our producers entered into their system to be covered for liability/cyber/errors and omission.
- SEYF Meeting (Recap)
A recap was given.
- NWF Virtual Summit (Recap)
A recap was given.
- AFCD Area Meeting (Recap)
A recap was given. A copy of the Code of Ethics was given to all Supervisors. Ann Bishop has reached out to Preferred to see if they offer the Ethics training. Vivi Serena asked Ann to find out if we could offer the training at the District and potentially hire the trainer that attended AFCD. The awards for the Area Contests were discussed, and the Board would like to address this during next year's budget for the contests.
- Commissioner Meetings (Reminder)
Stefani Duarte is finishing the Year-in-Review and will have it for the June meeting, so Vivi Serena will be able to take it with her during her one-on-ones with the County Commissioners, along with a packet of information. Ann Bishop reminded the Board of the meeting times. Stefani will be sending the Board a reminder for them to send her how they envision the District in the coming year and what accomplishments they hope to achieve. A picture was taken of all attending Supervisors.
- SENACD (Reminder)

The SENACD meeting is June 16-18 in Gainesville. Ann Bishop will be volunteering, so her registration will be waived.

- SWSC Meeting (Reminder)
- The SWSC conference was discussed.
 - **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved to allow the Executive Administrator to attend the SWSC Conference as outlined to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program and to pay for the mileage rather than splitting the cost of the rental for the travel to this conference. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.

- **Contests**
 - **State Envirothon (Recap)**

A recap was given. The State Envirothon Competition might be moved to earlier in the Spring; a discussion occurred on possibly moving ours to December. During the Area meeting, Alachua SWCD was invited to attend our contest next year and to encourage others to participate from their County.
 - **Scholarship (Update)**

A recap was given. A discussion occurred on inviting the scholarship winner to a Commissioner Meeting, if we can not coordinate with PEFMC to present this award. It was also mentioned that we should possibly present at a Commissioner Meeting, next year, the overall contest winners.
 - **Awards (Update)**

All the awards were dropped off at the schools.

- **Outreach**
 - **Library Program (Update)**

Ann Bishop is preparing for the library program that will be held on June 13 at 11 AM at Freedom Library.
 - **SWCS Event – Journey through Watersheds (Recap)**

A recap was given.
 - **Run for the Springs (Recap)**

A recap was given.
 - **North Florida Outdoor**

The Board was invited to participate in the North Florida Outdoor Expo at the World Equestrian Center on August 17 from 9 AM – 4 PM. Tabled until next meeting.
 - **UF Extension Camp**

Stefani Duarte and Ann Bishop held a discussion with the new UF/IFAS Water Resource Agent Ondine Wells to discuss our partnership. Ondine asked if we would like to assist her with a Summer Camp. The Board was given a brief overview of this camp.

 - **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved to participate in the UF Extension’s Summer Camp on July 10. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor. Stefani Duarte will send a confirmation to Ondine.
 - **Displays**

Display boards, foldable tables and an A-frame or easel for outreach activities were discussed. Justin Albright suggested looking into a local company for these displays. Ann Bishop will look into this and report back to the Board. Tabled until next meeting.

- **Miscellaneous (Updates)**
 - Website
 - Domain

Without the password to access the old Domain, the Board will need to wait until it becomes available to re-purchase it. Justin Albright mentioned that even though it is available at the end of the month we might have to wait longer to obtain it.
 - Updates

Stefani Duarte is in the process of making updates. The District compliance was also reviewed at the FCDEA Midyear Meeting.
- **OPPAGA**
 - They are in the process of finalizing their report. They will let us know if additional information is needed. It was also mentioned that Lake SWCD voted to dissolve.
- **Performance measures**
 - The Board reviewed new performance measures for the District.
- **Financials**
 - Vivi Serena mentioned that Ann Bishop and Justin Albright need to go to the bank to put Justin on as a signer and to remove Douglas Shearer. Then she will go after to get the new signer card.
- **Audit**
 - The audit is in the process of being finalized for the June 30 deadline.
- **501c3**
 - Ann Bishop is waiting to hear where we are in this process and will let the Board know once she receives an update.
- **Reporting**
 - A recap on reporting was given.
- **CF Workforce Internships**
 - Elena Amesbury is planning to attend the June Board Meeting to discuss her grant, regarding the workforce internships. Discussion also occurred about potentially holding a workshop to allow partners to assist with this.
- **Vehicle**
 - The Ford F150's windshield wipers were discussed.
 - PROPOSED MOTION: David Shults moved to repair the District's 2015 Ford F150. Lee Black seconded; all were in favor.
- **Supervisors**
- **Financial Disclosure**
 - Form One must be completed online and is due to the Supervisor of Elections by June 30.
- **Qualifying**
 - All supervisors, except Vivi Serena, must qualify between May 27 and June 14 to maintain their seats.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

i. MSWCD Board Minutes

ii. MSWCD Board Financial Report

- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the consent agenda as presented. David Shults seconded; all were in favor.

VII. Upcoming Events

Reviewed.

- MSWCD Monthly Meeting – May 13
- Local Working Group – May 18
- FCDEA Meeting – May 21
- Memorial Day – Office Closed – May 27
- Qualifying – May 27-June 14
- MSWCD Monthly Meeting – June 10
- Library Program – June 13
- Commissioner Meetings – June 11-12
- 990 N/Sales Use Tax Due – June 15
- SENACD Meeting – June 15-18
- Emerging Leaders Meeting – June 18
- FCDEA Meeting – June 18
- Alice Bishop’s Last Day – June 28
- Financial Disclosures – June 30
- Close of Fiscal Year (State)/End of Contract – June 30
- Employment Tax Due – July 1
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VIII. General Public Comments

IX. Supervisor Comments

X. NRCS Meeting - Equine

- NRCS Acting State Resource Conservationist Bianca Diaz Deliz attended the meeting at 11 AM via Webex to discuss Equine Opportunities through NRCS. She will be sending information to the Board via email.

XI. Meeting Adjournment

- Our next meeting is June 10, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Growth Services Building. With no other business needing addressed, Chairman Vivi Serena adjourned the meeting at 11:37 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.