# Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

July 13, 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 9:33 AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; Amy Davis, Secretary (arrived 9:39 AM), and Lenora Deonath, Supervisor (arrived 9:42 AM), and Conor Thornton-Fraser, Supervisor. Others in attendance were Sierra Ayers, NRCS (left 9:50 AM); 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 July 6, 2026.

# 1) NRCS Report

Sierra Ayers gave the NRCS Report.

# 2) FDACS Report

Ann Bishop gave the FDACS report. Rachael Tuck will send a follow up regarding the survey. Ann Bishop will let the Board know when the meeting is scheduled with FDACS.

# 3) Reports

## a) Supervisors' Hours

The supervisors' hours were sent via email for review.

## b) Quarterly

The Quarterly Report, bylaws, strategic plan, performance measures, and long-range plans were discussed. Amy Davis will see if any students are interested in doing any media for the District.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept or make changes as presented regarding the Quarterly Report(s). Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.**

## c) Year in Review

The Year in Review was discussed.

d) Audit

The audit was discussed.

e) FASD Legislation

The legislation update was discussed.

## 4) Contests

a) Themes

1. NACD

From Source to Sea: Every Drop has a Journey! is the new NACD theme.

2. Envirothon

Soil Health Management Agricultural Principles & Stewardship is the Envirothon theme.

b) Scholarship

The Scholarship was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved to postpone the scholarship for an additional year. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.**

c) Budget

The contest budget was discussed. Amy Davis mentioned that the Silver Springs bottling company may donate water to the District. Also, the Board discussed a registration fee for the Envirothon to cover lunch or a bring your own lunch option. The Board mentioned cutting the awards for the photo contest entirely. The Board would like to **TABLED** this topic until the August board meeting.

## 5) Outreach Programs

a) City of Belleview Project

A project with the City of Belleview was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to partner with City of Belleview on their project if the WRWSA grant is received. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.**

b) Springs Quest

The Springs Quest was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved to allow MSWCD, staff or supervisors, to participate in gathering information for the pollinator watch. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.**

c) CAPE (Recap)

The CAPE program was discussed. Rachael Tuck will develop a flyer for the program before August that Vivi Serena can approve, so Amy Davis can distribute it to teachers at her August 5 meeting.

d) Florida Pollinator Watch (Recap)
The Florida Pollinator Watch and Census were discussed.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved to allow MSWCD, staff or supervisors, to participate in the Florida Pollinator Watch. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.**

e) Florida-Friendly Food Scaping (Recap)
A recap on the Florida-Friendly Food Scaping course was given.

## 6) Meetings

a) MSWCD
Public participation was discussed. Justin Albright suggested that guest speakers sit in a designated seat.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved that public participants attending a MSWCD board meeting should sit on the chairs along the wall and not at the executive board table. They can address the Board during the general public comment section, where they will be given three minutes to speak. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.**

**AMENDED MOTION: Amy Davis amended her motion to include meeting participants must vacate the meeting room, no later than ten minutes after the meeting concludes. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.**

b) Corridor Connect – Landowner Expo (Recap)
A recap was given on the Corridor Connect.

c) FASD Conference (Recap)
A recap was given on the FASD Conference.

d) MCBCC Workshop Meeting (Reminder)
A reminder that the budget workshop is scheduled for 9 AM on Thursday, July 16. The Board asked Ann Bishop to look to see where cuts can be made if we have to make them.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to allow Vivi Serena to negotiate on behalf of the Board, regarding the District's budget, if cuts need to be made. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.**

e) Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting
The Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting was discussed.

f) SENACD Annual Meeting (Tabled)
The SENACD Annual Meeting was discussed.

g) IAAP Conference
The IAAP Conference was discussed. Ann received a grant to attend in person rather than virtually; Vivi Serena gave the okay for Ann to attend.

h) AFCD Annual Meeting (Tabled)
The AFCD Meeting was discussed.

i) FCDEA Annual Meeting (Tabled)
The FCDEA Meeting was discussed.

j) SECDEA Annual Meeting (Tabled)
The SECDEA Meeting was discussed and **TABLED** until next meeting.

The NCDEA meeting was mentioned. Also the Board discussed staff obtaining a notary.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to allow MSWCD, staff or supervisors, to attend a notary training, the Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting, the AFCD Meeting, and the FCDEA Meeting. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.**

## 7) Staff Report & Recap

a) Flex Time
Staff time was discussed.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to uphold the previous motion made by the Board to allow staff to flex their time as needed during the work week, for them to use paid time off as needed, and for them to work overtime as needed. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.**

b) Preferred Insurance
The District's insurance was discussed.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to submit the Preferred paperwork for an insurance quote. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.**

c) Run for the Springs
The Run for the Springs was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to allow MSWCD, staff or supervisors, to attend the Run for the Springs 2027. Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.**

The Board will determine in the months ahead if they can sponsor these runners.

d) FASD Committees
The FASD Committees were discussed. Conor Thornton-Fraser stated that he might be interested. Ann Bishop mentioned that if anyone is interested the Board will need to send a letter and an application must be filled out.
**PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to allow MSWCD, staff or supervisors, to participate on the FASD Committee(s). Lenora Deonath seconded; all were in favor.**

e) FCDEA Nominations
FCDEA selected Ann Bishop as the District Employee of the Year.

f) District Election
The district elections were discussed: what seats and who qualified.

Ann mentioned that the Board received a public request before the meeting.

## 8) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes
b) MSWCD Board Financial Report
**PROPOSED MOTION: Lenora Deonath moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.**

## 9) Upcoming Events

The Board reviewed the upcoming events.

Sales Use Tax Due – July 15
MCBCC Budget Workshop – July 16
Inter-District Water Conservation Meeting – July 17
NACD Midyear Meeting – July 17-21
Belleview Library Event – July 21
FCDEA Meeting – July 20
IAAP Conference – July 26-29
5550 Tax Due – July 31
SENACD Annual Conference – August 9-13
MSWCD Meeting – August 10
Growth Customer Service Meeting – August 13

AFCD Annual Meeting – August 25
FCDEA Annual Meeting – August 26
SECDEA Annual Conference – November 2-5

## 10) General Public Comments

## 11) Supervisor Comments

Amy Davis and Conor Thornton-Fraser will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Meeting Adjournment
The next meeting is August 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the Growth Services Building, unless determined otherwise during the meeting.

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM, until our next meeting.

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