

# Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

March 10, 2025

9:00 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.*

## 1) Call to Order

### a) Roll Call

1. Chairman, Vivi Serena, called the meeting to order at 9:09AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; and Amy Davis, Public Relations. Colleen Stenstream, Secretary was not in attendance. Others in attendance were Sierra Ayers, NRCS (left at 9:50 AM); Ann Bishop, MSWCD; and Lenora Deonath, citizen.

### b) Proof of Publication

1. Proof of Publication was given. It appeared in the Ocala Gazette on October 4, 2024 and was reposted on January 24, 2025. The Florida Administrative Weekly posted it on October 7. NRCS received notice of the 2025 meetings on December 12, 2024. Marion County Board of County Commissioners received notice of the meetings on December 11. The meeting is also posted on the District website with the agenda uploaded on March 3, 2025.

## 2) NRCS Report

### a) NRCS Report

1. Sierra Ayers gave the NRCS report and mentioned that the Ocala office is scheduled to close, possibly relocating, on August 31.

### b) Local Working Group

1. The Board was presented with a flyer. The date for the local working group is April 7, 2025, located in the NRCS Conference Room, 2441 NE 3rd St., Suite 204-2, from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

## 3) FDACS Report

a) FDACS was not in attendance, so Ann Bishop gave an update on cost share.

b) Vivi Serena would like to hold a workshop in May regarding the FDACS contract.

## 4) Officer Appointment

a) Lenora Deonath introduced herself and stated why she wished to serve on the Board.

b) PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to appoint Lenora Deonath to the MSWCD Board. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

## 5) Quarterly Review

### a) Long Range Plan

1. The Board was presented with the long-range plan; an update was done to include continuous training as a goal/objective.

2. PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD accept the long-range plan as presented. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

b) Strategic Plan

1. The Board was presented with the strategic plan.
2. PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD accept the strategic plan as presented. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

c) Performance Measurements

1. The Board reviewed their performance measures.
2. PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept the quarterly report as presented and to forgo the essay contest and speech contests in the new fiscal, contest year. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

## 6) Financials

a) CD

1. The CD was discussed. The Board all agreed that Justin Albright should see who offers the best rate before the CD matures on March 21 and renew it.

b) 501c3

1. An update was given on the 501c3 status.
2. The Board reviewed the Articles of Incorporation.
3. PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept the Articles of Incorporation. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

c) Audit

1. The Board reviewed the engagement letter.
2. PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to sign the engagement letter with James Davis, CPA to conduct the District's 2023-2024 audit. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

d) MC Budget

1. May 1, 2025 is the deadline for next year's budget.
2. Vivi Serena would like to discuss at a later meeting, if they Board should schedule visits with the commissioners.
3. Stefani will be working on the year in review.

e) District Funds

1. District funding for non-reimbursables was discussed.

## 7) Legislation

- a) Ann Bishop forwarded an email from FASD, which should be reviewed since it

contains bills that are not being discussed in this agenda that affect the District.

- b) SB 700 was discussed.
- c) SB 986 was discussed.
- d) SB 80 was discussed.
- e) HB 105 was discussed.
- f) Florida Right to Clean Water petition was discussed.

## 8) Staff Report & Recap

### a) Outreach (Update)

#### i) Buzz and Bloom

- a) *Ann Bishop mentioned that the Buzz and Bloom event is this weekend in Dunnellon.*

#### ii) Contests

##### b) *Conservation Landscape Trays*

- (1) Ann Bishop gave an update.
- (2) The Board reviewed the thank you letters.

##### c) *Envirothon*

- (1) Ann Bishop gave an update.

##### d) *Awards*

- (1) Stefani Duarte purchased plaques.
- (2) The awards were discussed.
- (3) PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to amend the contest budget for this fiscal year (2024-2025) to only allow for two monetary gifts for the overall conservationist winner of the year: one for the teacher and one for the overall student. All educational levels will still receive a plaque. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

### iii) Library Programs (Update)

- a) *Ann Bishop gave an update on the library event for kids, called "Color Our World".*

#### b) *Seed Library*

- (1) PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to allow Ann Bishop to attend the April 19 Seed Library Event. Amy Davis seconded; all in favor.

### iv) Run for the Springs (Update)

- a) *Stefani Duarte won third place.*

### v) Farmland Preservation

- a) *Ann gave a reminder for the Farmland Preservation and mentioned that Brent London will be attending.*

### vi) Springs Festival

- a) *Vivi Serena approved for staff to participate.*

- b) Ann Bishop gave a recap and stated that the festival did not target the District's clientele.*
- vii) Outdoor Expo
  - a) The Outdoor Expo was tabled.*
- b) Meetings
  - i) NACD (Recap)
    - a) Ann Bishop gave a recap on the NACD meeting and mentioned that she was able to utilize some of the information that she learned at this meeting and applied it.*
    - b) NACD asked Ann Bishop if she would like to volunteer for the next annual meeting in San Antonio.*
  - ii) NSF (Update)
    - a) Ann Bishop gave an update on the NSF grant.*
    - b) Ann Bishop stated that she is working with Ondine Wells on an internship project for monitoring well water.*
  - iii) Rainbow River Conservation Board Meeting (Recap)
    - a) Ann Bishop gave recap.*
    - b) PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved that the District participate in the Rainbow River Cleanup on May 17. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.*
  - iv) Pollinator Ambassador Academy
    - a) Vivi Serena approved for Ann Bishop and Stefani Duarte to attend on March 27.*
    - b) A discussion was held on the Pollinator Ambassador Academy.*
    - c) PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that Stefani Duarte should not attend the Pollinator Ambassador Academy or the FASD Forum since it will be her last week with the District. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.*
  - v) Water School
    - a) Vivi approved for Ann Bishop and Stefani Duarte to attend on May 1 and May 2.*
    - b) A discussion was held on the Water School.*
    - c) The supervisors are going to check their schedules to see if one of them can attend the Water School in place of Stefani Duarte.*
  - vi) Preferred Education Day
    - a) A discussion was held on the Preferred Education Day.*
    - b) PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to allow Ann Bishop to attend the Preferred Education Day in Lake Mary on May 13 from 9 AM - 2:30 PM. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.*
- c) Miscellaneous
  - i) District Emails
    - a) District emails were tabled.*

- ii) Office Space
  - a) *The County asked if they can take back one of the office's that we are currently are utilizing as storage.*
  
- iii) Vehicle
  - a) *Vivi Serena approved for the brakes on the vehicle to be replaced. It will cost approximately \$800.*

## 9) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) MSWCD Board Minutes
- b) MSWCD Board Financial Report
  - i) PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the consent agenda as presented. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

## 10) Upcoming Events

- a) 990 N Due – March 15
- b) Buzz and Bloom – March 15
- c) FCDEA Meeting – March 18
- d) Quarterly Growth Services Meeting – March 19
- e) CD Matures – March 21
- f) FASD Legislative Forum – March 25-26
- g) Pollinator Ambassador Academy – March 27
- h) NSF Meeting – March 28
- i) State Envirothon – April 5
- j) Farmland Preservation – April 12
- k) Marion SWCD Meeting – April 14
- l) Holiday Office Closed – April 18
- m) MC Budget Request Due – May 1
- n) Water School – May 1-2
- o) Marion SWCD Meeting – May 12

## 11) General Public Comments

## 12) Supervisor Comments

### 13) Meeting Adjournment

- a) With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:02 AM, until our next meeting.
- b) Our next meeting is April 14, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Growth Services Building.

*MSWCD's regular meetings are held at 9:00 AM on the 2nd Monday of each month, and their workshops are held the 4th Monday of each month at 9:00 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.*