

# Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

January 12, 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 9:34 AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer, and Jan Cubbage, Supervisor. Lenora Deonath, Secretary and Amy Davis, Public Relations were absent. Others in attendance were Sierra Ayers, NRCS, Ondine Wells, MC Extension, Rachael Tuck, MSWCD staff, Jordan Brantley, MSWCD intern, 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. The meetings are also posted on the District's website, and the agenda was uploaded on January 5, 2026.

### c) Welcome New Attendees

The Board welcomed the new attendees.

1. Ondine Wells
2. Jordan Brantley
3. Rachael Tuck

## 2) Speaker – Ondine Wells, Extension

Ondine Wells gave a presentation to the Board and UF/IFAS well program was discussed. Ondine stated that she will send the Board a link regarding wells.

## 3) NRCS Report

Sierra Ayers gave an update. January 15 is the application deadline. A new program on regenerative agriculture is being initiated and questions are being taken, but not a lot of details have been given yet. She also mentioned that the areas have been redistricted, since Frank Ellis, the Area Conservationist is retiring.

### a) Payment Limits

### b) Feral Pig Proposal

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright motioned that MSWCD propose the Rainbow River Watershed for the feral pig program. Jan Cubbage seconded; all were in favor.

Ann Bishop will send the information NRCS.

## 4) FDACS Report

Ann gave a recap on cost share and the amendment.

- a) Agreements
- b) Amendment

## 5) Meetings

- a) Officer and Committee Selections

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright nominated Vivi Serena for the position of Marion SWCD Chairman. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Jan Cabbage nominated Justin Albright for the position of Marion SWCD Vice-Chairman/Treasurer. Vivi Serena seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright nominated Amy Davis for the position of Marion SWCD Secretary. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright nominated Jan Cabbage for the position of Public Relations Representative. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright nominated the entire Board to serve as the FY 23-24 Contests Committee Chair (Currently includes: Found Art & Poster; Essay & Scholarship; Conservation Landscape Tray; Land Judging; Public Speaking; Envirothon). Jan seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright nominated the entire Board to serve as the FY 23-24 Awards Ceremony Committee Chair. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

- b) 501c3

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD hold their 501c3 meeting after the MSWCD February meeting. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

## 6) Contests

- a) Judging

1. Found Art & Posters

The Found Art and Posters will be judged after today's meeting.

2. Conservation Landscape Trays

February 18 will be the Conservation Landscape Tray judging; Brent London, Sierra Ayers, and Justin Albright will be the judges. The District had 47 entries sign up, but only about half of these will probably enter.

- b) Envirothon

Envirothon was discussed. The event will be held at the KP Hole on January 28.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve staff to purchase food for the Envirothon, from Dominos, not to exceed the budgeted amount listed in the contest budget, which is \$15/person. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

- c) Award Ceremony

The award ceremony was not discussed.

## 7) Plans

### a) MC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

The MC Comprehensive Plan Amendment was discussed.

### b) Performance Measures

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the performance measures as presented and revise the contest language for 2026. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

The performance measures were discussed.

### c) Quarterly Report

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the quarterly report as presented. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor. took together

### d) Review

The plans were discussed. The contests need to be updated in the Long Range Plan to reflect the correct number. It was suggested to place an addendum at the end of this document. (Under priorities and goal three, it lists all the contests.) The By-laws mentions the contests, but it states not limited to, so this document is currently okay not mentioning the photo contest in it.

1. Long Range Plan
2. Strategic Plan
3. Annual Plan
4. By-laws

*PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD proceed with the changes presented at the meeting. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.*

## 8) Financials

### a) Audit

The Board discussed the audit and decided to have the current auditor write up a proposal letter.

### b) ACH Change

A discussion on the ACH description occurred.

### c) Money Market Renewal

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that the Treasurer roll over the District's money market into a new special rate. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.

The renewal date is February 17, and the Board has ten days to make changes.

### d) Taxes

A recap was given on the taxes.

## 9) Staff Report & Recap

The Board reviewed the finances and discussed the items that a former employee still has possession of. Ann Bishop order staff and supervisors' shirts.

### a) Project Dirt (Recap)

**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow staff and/or supervisors to attend the Life Soils event on January 16 and the FL Agronomy and Soil Initiative Conference in February, if available. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.**

Rachael gave a recap on Project Dirt; it was suggested to see about presenting that producer with the FED distinction. Quality by design Marion/Lake large nursery This is FED suggestion James

### b) NSF Grant (Recap)

Interviews were help and selected Jordan Brantley as an intern. K.T. is no longer the advisor. Matt Keene is now heading up the program.

### c) FFA Sub District (Recap)

A recap on the FFA Sub District contests were given. FFA asked the District to judge the speeches again at the District contest.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow Rachael Tuck to judge the FFA Speech Contest, if no conflict occurs with the date. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.**

### d) Rainbow River Conservation Meeting (Recap)

A recap on the Rainbow River Conservation Meeting was given; about 85 people were in attendance.

### e) Belleview Career Fair (Recap)

A recap on the Belleview Career Fair was given; about 750 were in attendance.

### f) Ft King Middle (Recap)

A recap was given on the Ft King Middle School presentation on native vs nonnative and jeopardy.

### g) Biochar Meeting (Recap)

A recap was given on Acciona, the biochar company, who wants to meet in February. Brent London is also given them feedback on his biochar application.

### h) Legislation (Update)

A legislative update was given.

### i) AFCD Membership (Update)

The AFCD Membership was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD not continue its membership with AFCD. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.**

### j) Dept. of Ethics

Information was verified for the Department of Ethics.

### k) Vehicle

The vehicle's brakes were discussed.

### l) Miscellaneous

1. SpringsFest (Previously Tabled)

*PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow staff and/or supervisors to attend SpringFest on March 7 and 8. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.*

2. Printer

Vivi Serena approved the purchase of a new printer since Rachael's printer stopped working. Staff is looking into this purchase since certain functions are needed. Jan Cabbage stated that she can bring in a used printer that might work.

3. Indian Lake Hike

*The Indian Lake Hike was discussed.*

*PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow staff and/or supervisors to attend the Indian River Hike event on February 28. Jan Cabbage seconded; all were in favor.*

4. Insurance update

*The Board reviewed the insurance update.*

10) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes

b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

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

11) Upcoming Events

MSWCD Monthly Meeting – January 12

Legislative Forum – January 13-15

Sales and Use Tax Due – January 15

FCDEA Monthly Meeting – January 19

Envirothon – January 28

1099s Due – January 31

MSWCD Monthly Meeting – February 9

Quarterly Customer Service Strike Team – February 12

CD Renewal – February 17

NACD Annual Meeting – February 15-19

FCDEA Monthly Meeting – February 6

SEYF Setup – February 17

SEYF Judging – February 18

12) General Public Comments

13) Supervisor Comments

#### 14) Meeting Adjournment

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

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 11:22 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.*