Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)

Regular Board Meeting

2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard

Ocala, FL 34470

September 14, 2026

3:30 PM

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 3:36 PM.

2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; Amy Davis, Secretary; and Conor Thornton-Fraser, Supervisor. Supervisor Lenora Deonath was absent. Others in attendance were Rachael Tuck, MSWCD staff (left at 4 PM), and Ann Bishop, MSWCD staff.

b) Proof of Publication

Proof of Publication was given. It appeared in the Ocala Gazette on September 4. NRCS and Marion County Board of County Commissioners received notice of the annual meetings, time change, on August 10. The meetings are also posted on the District's website, and the agenda was uploaded on September 7, 2026.

2) NRCS Report

Not in attendance, but NRCS is seeking comment on their handbook and barbwire.

3) FDACS Report

Cost share was discussed.

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

4) Contests

Awards and the contests were discussed.

a) Contest Packet

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to pay for lunches for Envirothon volunteers and to subsidize the additional cost for the other lunches. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to accept the contest packet as presented and for its distribution. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

b) Horse Farms Forever (HFF)

The Horse Farms Forever Summit and contest were discussed. Amy Davis and Conor Thornton-Fraser stated that they would judge.

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to accept the presented Horse Farms Forever contest packet as presented, for its distribution, for the District to coordinate with Wildlife Corridor on this contest and to purchase the awards for District reimbursement.

c) School Board

The school board meeting was discussed. Vivi Senera or Justin Albright stated they would go to one of the meetings in October. Rachael Tuck will coordinate this.

5) Meetings

a) AFCD Recap

A recap was given on the AFCD meeting.

b) FCDEA Recap

A recap was given on the FCDEA meetings. Ann Bishop reminded the Board about the ethics training and that FCDEA asked if she would present at the SECDEA conference.

c) Water Resources Advisory Recap

d) North Central Florida Media Recap

A recap was given on the North Central Florida Media meeting.

e) SJRWMD Turf Grass Tour

The SJRWMD Turf Grass Tour was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to allow staff/supervisors to attend turf grass tour. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

f) FL Water Star Irrigation

The FL Water Star Irrigation workshop was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to allow staff/supervisors to attend the irrigation workshop. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

Conor Justin

g) FASD Leadership Conference

The FASD Leadership Conference was discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to allow staff/supervisors to attend the FASD Leadership Conference. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

6) Staff Report & Recap

a) Insurance

PROPOSED MOTION: Conor Thornton-Fraser moved to allow staff/supervisors to attend the FASD Leadership Conference. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

b) Auditor

The audit and annual financial report were discussed.

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to allow staff to place a notice in the local paper for an auditor. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

c) Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Adopted

The adopted comprehensive plan amendment was sent via email to the Board.

d) District Promotional Item

Flashlights were ordered.

e) Emerging Leaders Program

Rachael Tuck was accepted into the Emerging Leaders Program.

f) Boots & Suits

A recap was given on Boots & Suits.

g) SECDEA Shirts

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to cover the cost of a SECDEA shirt for staff. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

h) Evaluation

Ann Bishop's evaluation needs to be completed for the County.

i) Vehicle Recall

PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved to allow staff to take the vehicle to Ford to get the recalls repaired. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

j) Miscellaneous

The following meetings or trainings were mentioned: UF Field Day, Alachua CAPE Training, Public Record Seminars, Wildlife Corridor, and 1000 Friends of Florida.

Paycheck needed a signature for the terminated retirement plan, which Vivi Serena signed.

CAPE training is being held in Alachua on October 20 from 1-4 PM.

7) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes

b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

PROPOSED MOTION: Amy Davis moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Conor Thornton-Fraser seconded; all were in favor.

8) Upcoming Events

MSWCD Meeting – September 14
Growth Customer Service Meeting – September 16
FCDEA Monthly Meeting – September 21
FASD Leadership Conference – October 5-7
MSWCD Meeting – October 12
Rainbow Springs Quest – October 14
Horse Farms Forever Poster Deadline – October 16
End of Fiscal Year – September 30
SECDEA Annual Conference – November 2-5

9) General Public Comments

10) Supervisor Comments

Vivi Serena discussed the meeting with Human Resources.

11) Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting is October 12, 2026, at 3:30 PM in the Growth Services Building, unless determined otherwise during the meeting.

With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 4:54 PM, 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.