

Minutes
Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Regular Board Meeting
2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard
Ocala, FL 34470
January 8, 2024
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 9:37 AM.

▪ **Roll Call**

Vivi Serena, Chairman/Treasurer
Richard McGinley, Vice-Chairman
Justin Albright, Public Relations

Absent

Lee Black, Secretary
David Shults, Supervisor

Others in Attendance

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

▪ **Proof of Publication**

Star-Banner – On January 2, an email was sent regarding this meeting.
Florida Administrative Weekly – It was posted in the FL Admin Weekly on December 29.
NRCS – On January 2, an email was sent regarding this meeting.
Marion County Board of County Commissioners – On December 18, an email was sent regarding this meeting; a reminder was sent on January 2.

II. NRCS Report

NRCS gave a report.

III. FDACS Report

▪ **Cost Share**

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the cost share program and mentioned Tammy Hinkle is awaiting the technician funds to be moved over. The following was cost share agreements approved for funding:

- John W Graham – Sumter - \$22,561.35 – Granular Nutrient Applicator
 - Frogmore Ranch, LLC (Shannon Miltner) – Pasco – \$ 37,563.75 – No Till Drill
 - Warren McGehee – Alachua - \$36,774.00 – Precision Nitrogen Applicator
 - Jason Garrett – Pasco – \$36,000.00 – No Till Drill
 - Gore Farms, LLC (Jason Gore) – Gilchrist – \$33,375.00 – Precision Nitrogen Applicator with Topcon GPS
- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve the presented cost share agreements. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.**

▪ **Technician**

The Ford F150 2018 vehicle was discussed.

- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD approve for Ann Bishop to act on behalf of the Board to transfer the 2018 Ford F150 to Okeechobee SWCD. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.
- **PROPOSED MOTION:** Richard McGinley moved that MSWCD list the value on the bill of sale of the Ford F150 2018 vehicle as \$1,862 since this is what the District paid, but not acquire these funds from Okeechobee SWCD. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.

Vivi Serena and Justin Albright signed the title. Justin also stated that he can take the paperwork for the title transfer to the Tax Office if needed.

IV. Staff Report & Recap

- **Conservation Summit (Recap)**
Stefani Duarte gave a recap.
- **Career Fair (Recap)**
Stefani Duarte gave a recap. We saw a need for Spanish documents for students informing them of MSWCD contests. The Board agreed that this would be a great idea for all District publications.
- **Website (Recap)**
Stefani Duarte gave a recap.
- **Contests (Update)**
Ann Bishop gave an update on the contests, and contest participation was discussed. Vivi Serena and Justin Albright stated that they will judge the found art and poster contests. Colleen and Bob Stenstream may also judge these too. Sierra Ayers, Justin Albright, Richard McGinley and Vivi Serena all stated that they will judge the conservation landscape trays on February 21. Stefani Duarte will send a recap of the contests and other events where assistance is needed.
- **SpringsFest**
Ann Bishop gave an update on the SpringsFest. Colleen Stenstream stated that she might be able to cover lunches these two days.
 - **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD participate in the SpringsFest on March 2 and March 3 as an exhibitor. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.
- **Insurance (Re-proposal)**
The only change to the re-proposal was the new name of the insurance company.
 - **PROPOSED MOTION:** Richard McGinley moved that the MSWCD approve the updated insurance plan as presented. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.
- **AFCD Quarterly Meeting**
The AFCD Quarterly Meeting was discussed.
- **SWCS Event**
Ann Bishop discussed the SWCS Emerging Leaders Event, which is scheduled for April 13 at Silver Springs State Park. Sierra Ayers stated that she would assist with this event.
 - **PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD support the Soil and Water Conservation Society Leadership Conservation Event, on April 13 located at Silver Springs, and allow Ann Bishop to present this event at the SWCS Conference as laid out in the requirements of the emerging leadership program. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.
- **UF/IFAS Educational Programs**

The UF/IFAS Educational Programs were discussed. Justin Albright asked about Farm Bureau Day in Tallahassee, which is January 16, and stated he might be interested in going.

- **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow supervisors or staff to attend the UF/IFAS Educational Programs. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.**

- **Miscellaneous**

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the IAAP Scholarship, preparing the tax forms, reorganization of the office, the mandatory County classes and the Progressive Ag Safety Training. Ann also asked the supervisors to verify their contact information for the State.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. MSWCD Board Minutes
- ii. MSWCD Board Financial Report
 - **PROPOSED MOTION: Richard McGinley moved that the MSWCD consent agenda be approved as presented. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.**

VI. Finances (Recap)

- **Ameris CD**

Ann Bishop gave an update on the CD. Vivi Serena suggested that an additional supervisor be added to the account when it matures.

 - **PROPOSED MOTION: Richard McGinley moved that Justin Albright be added to the Ameris accounts as an authorized signer. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.**
- **501C 3**

The MSWCD 501.C5 tax status was discussed.

 - **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD continue with changing the status of their non-exemption. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.**
- **MCBCC Budget Workshop**

The MCBCC Budget Workshop will be held July 10 at 1:30 PM, and the Board stated that they will be in attendance. The Board also agreed that they need to hold one on one with the Commissioners to discuss the need for the District's part time position to become full time.

VII. 2024

- Meeting (Day/Time)
 - **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that the MSWCD continue to keep the same time, location, and date for the District board meetings. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.**
- Review plans
Reviewed.
- **Committee & District Officer Selection**
 - **PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that all supervisors remain in their same position as they held last year for MSWCD: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Representative, FY 23-24 Contests Committee Chair, and FY 23-24 Awards Ceremony Committee Chair. Richard McGinley seconded; all were in favor.**

VIII. New Legislation

- **HB 7013**
- **SB 1058**
- **HB 1075**
- **SB 1772**

- **Highlands Proposal**
- **1000 Friends of Florida**

The Board discussed all the bills, Highlands SWCD proposal, and the 1000 Friends of Florida. Justin Albright and Richard McGinley will reach out to Farm Bureau and some legislation connections regarding these bills.

The Board would like to ponder other best management practices for equine and make suggestions to FDACS.

The Board would like to revisit these and take action at the next month's meeting.

IX. Upcoming Events

- FCDEA Executive Board Meeting – January 8
- SWSC Leadership Planning Meeting – January 9
- AFCD Quarterly Meeting – January 12
- Office Closed – January 15
- FCDEA Meeting – January 19
- 1099Gs Due – January 31
- BMP Quarterly Meeting – February 7
- NACD Annual Meeting – February 10-14
- MSWCD Monthly Meeting – February 12
- 990 N Due – February 15
- Conservation Tray Drop Off – February 20
- Conservation Tray Judging – February 21
- SEYF Conservation Tray Award – February 26
- Ag BMP Minigrant Conference – February 29
- Conservation Tray Pick Up – March 2
- SpringFest – March 2-3

X. General Public Comments

XI. Supervisor Comments

Richard McGinley stated that he will be out of town next month.

XII. Meeting Adjournment

- Our next meeting is February 12, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Growth Services Building, unless determined otherwise during the meeting.
- With no other business needing addressed, Chairman Vivi Serena adjourned the meeting at 11:00 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.