

# Minutes

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)  
Regular Board Meeting  
2710 East Silver Springs Boulevard  
Ocala, FL 34470  
June 9, 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) Welcome/Introductions

Welcome and introductions were given for new attendees.

### b) Roll Call

1. Chairman, Vivi Serena, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.
2. Roll Call was taken. In attendance was Vivi Serena, Chairman; Justin Albright, Vice Chairman/Treasurer (arrived at 9:06 AM); Colleen Stenstream, Secretary; and Amy Davis (left at 10:12 AM), Public Relations. Lenora Deonath, Supervisor was not in attendance. Others in attendance were Sierra Ayers, NRCS; Ada Napiatek, Green Hoofs; Len Racioppi, citizen/volunteer; Ashlee Rice, MSWCD; and Ann Bishop, MSWCD.

### c) 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 and April 18, 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 June 2, 2025.

## 2) NRCS Report

### b) Monthly Report

Sierra Ayers gave a recap. The Ocala Service Center is scheduled to relocate to Gainesville on August 18. The Board discussed the relocation of NRCS.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved to have Ann Bishop talk to the Growth Services Director about space for NRCS. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

Ann will contact Justin after she speaks with the Growth Services Director, Chuck Varadin. The NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 10, and Ann will send this information to Ada Napiatek and Lee Racioppi.

### 3) FDACS Report

#### a) Payment(s)

All FDACS payments for reimbursement need to be completed by June 30; currently the District has three outstanding.

#### b) Agreement(s)

The new agreements were discussed.

#### c) Contract

The FDACS contracts were discussed.

### 4) Financials

#### a) CD

Justin Albright did not contact Ameris regarding the CD.

#### b) Disclosure

Financial Disclosures are due June 30.

#### c) Audit

The auditor, Jim Davis, stated that he should have the District's audit completed in the next week.

#### d) MC Budget

The MC Budget Workshop is July 24 at 9 AM in the MCBCC Auditorium. Vivi Serena and Justin Albright will attend the workshop. Ann Bishop will prep the information for them. Ann is still needing to complete the BAR for this fiscal year. past year and submissions for reimbursements.

e) 501c3

The 501c3 and the Articles of Incorporation were discussed. Justin Albright suggested that we include a doing business as (DBA) as Marion Soil and Water Conservation District. Colleen Stenstream stated that the Board should make the CD part of the 501c3 accounts. The Board agreed.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Colleen moved that MSWCD accept the name change for the 501c3 non-profit as Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, Inc. formerly known as Marion Soil and Water Conservation District. Secondly, Colleen moved that the MSWCD accept the Articles of Incorporation as presented and update the by-laws accordingly, voting to approve these new changes at next Board Meeting; and, file the Articles of Incorporation with the State and the IRS, as well as, for the MSWCD to pursue a new FEIN tax ID number from the IRS to distinguish the separation of both entities. Amy Davis seconded. All were in favor.

5) Staff Report & Recap

a) Outreach

i) Rainbow River Clean-up (Recap)

*A recap on Rainbow River Clean-up was given.*

ii) Library Programs (Update)

(1) Kids – Color Our World

The library event will be held on July 10, 10 AM at the Belleview Library. Ann Bishop stated that she will send a reminder closer to the date. Amy Davis stated that she should be able to attend.

(2) Seed Library

During the Pollinator Team Meeting, Ann Bishop was able to secure more seeds for the library.

b) Meetings

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Colleen Stenstream moved that MSWCD cancel their next meeting, scheduled July 14, 2025. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

i) NSF (Update)

*Ann Bishop gave an update on the NSF grant through CF. Interns should start in August.*

ii) Pollinator Academy (Recap)

*Ann Bishop gave a recap on the Pollinator Academy that Lenora Deonath and she attended.*

(1) Pollinator Team Meeting

Ann Bishop gave a recap on the Pollinator Academy that Lenora Deonath and she attended.

(2) *Gardening for Pollinators*

Gardening for Pollinators was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Colleen Stenstream moved that MSWCD allow staff and/or supervisors to attend this training, MSWCD funding permitting. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

(1) *Pollinator Workshop*

The Pollinator Workshop was discussed.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Justin Albright moved that MSWCD allow staff and/or supervisors to attend this training, MSWCD funding permitting. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

i) SE Partnership for Forests and Water (Recap)

*A recap was given on the SE Partnership for Forests and Water that Ashlee Rice and Ann Bishop attended.*

ii) Water School

*A recap was given on the Water School(s) that Ashlee Rice and Ann Bishop attended.*

*The Board discussed Home Owners Associations and that the District should offer educational trainings or programs on Florida Friendly Plants, fertilizing, and irrigation. Amy Davis mentioned that the Home Depot in the Villages sells the most fertilizer than anywhere in the United States. Ann Bishop mentioned that the Ocala Home Depot told Stefani Duarte that they want to partner with us to offer a program regarding irrigation. Ashlee Rice will look into doing a program. Colleen Stenstream asked about presenting one at Ocala Preserve.*

iii) UF/IFAS FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference (Recap)

*Ashlee Rice gave a recap on the UF/IFAS FL Ag Policy Outlook Conference.*

iv) FCDEA (Recap)

*A FCDEA recap was given. MSWCD had a winner in the poster contest. Vivi Serena asked Ann Bishop for more info on the State Advancing Accountability training. Streamline (websites) was discussed. FCDEA mentioned that they will be providing administrative support to AFCD.*

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Amy Davis moved that MSWCD pay the annual fees of \$1152, \$96 per month, to FCDEA for our District website, hosted on the Streamline platform. Colleen Stenstream seconded; all were in favor.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** Colleen Stenstream moved that MSWCD allow staff to attend the FCDEA Annual Meeting in Gainesville, September 23-24. Amy Davis seconded; all were in favor.

b) Miscellaneous

i) Legislation

*Legislation was discussed.*

ii) Contests

*The contests and the budgets were discussed. The new themes are for NACD: "Soil. Where it Begins" and for the Envirothon: "Non-point Source Pollution: It begins at home!"*

*PROPOSED MOTION: Justin Albright moved that MSWCD maintain the same awards as last year for the students, but to reduce the top tier awards to one award and cut their value in half. Colleen Stenstream seconded; all were in favor.*

iii) Scholarship

*PROPOSED MOTION: Colleen Stenstream moved that MSWCD postponed the MSWCD scholarship for a year. Justin Albright seconded; all were in favor.*

iv) Library Article

*The article that Stefani Duarte wrote was presented to the Board.*

v) Vehicle

*An update on the vehicle was given after Woods Garage did a diagnostic on it.*

## 2) CONSENT AGENDA

a) MSWCD Board Minutes

b) MSWCD Board Financial Report

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

### 3) Upcoming Events

- Marion SWCD Meeting – June 9
- Monthly Growth Services Meeting (House Keeping) – June 12
- Pollinator Team Meeting – June 16
- FASD Annual Meeting – June 16-19
- FCDEA Monthly Meeting – June 17
- Quarterly Growth Services Meeting (Customer Service/Safety) – June 18
- Financial Disclosures Due – June 30
- FDACS Contract Ends – June 30
- Holiday Office Closed – July 4
- Growth Services Meeting – July 10
- Library Color My World Event – July 10
- Marion SWCD Meeting – July 14
- FDACS Closeout Report Due – July 14
- Form 990N Due – July 15
- Sales Tax & Use Due – July 15
- MCBCC Budget Workshop – July 24
- Form 5550 Due – July 31
- Employer Quarterly Report Due – July 31

### 4) General Public Comments

### 5) Supervisor Comments

### 6) Meeting Adjournment

- a) Our next meeting is August 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Growth Services Building, unless determined otherwise during the meeting.
- b) With no other business needing addressed Vivi Serena, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:33 AM, until our next meeting.

*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.*