

Minutes
Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Workshop

UDSA Service Center – Conference Room
2441 NE 3rd St., Ste. 204-2, Ocala, FL 34470
January 28, 2020
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 SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES. Thank you.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Justin Albright at 9:40 AM.

Roll Call

- Justin Albright, Chairman
- Richard McGinley, Vice-Chairman
- Tom Cartwright, Treasurer
- Brent London, Supervisor

Absent

- Vivi Serena, Secretary

Others in Attendance

- Oneisha Gary, NRCS
- Ann Bishop, MSWCD Staff
- Nick Godano, MSWCD Staff
- Lida Iravani, MSWCD Staff

Proof of Publication

- Star-Banner – Sent via email, January 21st, and the yearly schedule was sent on December 9th
- Florida Administrative Weekly – It will be posted by AFCD; they were sent the info on December 20th and stated that it will be posted after January 31
- Ocala Service Center's Front Window – Posted, January 2nd
- Marion County Board of County Commissioners – Posted, January 2nd

Guest Speakers:

AGENDA

1) Financials

- **ACH**
Tom stated that Vivi and he need to take a one-hour course to use the key code, so the District can start paying producers and staff using ACH. Tom asked if Vivi received her key card. Ann stated yes.
- **Audit**
The Board received notification from the State regarding a statement that was issued in the 2016 Audit that was not resolved. Ann asked the auditor about this finding. He stated that we will always be in fault since we do not pay him to do our financials because it is quite costly. He stated that he will send a letter to the State to resolve this. Ann suggested that the Board send a letter to the State stating that the Auditor is going to respond regarding his findings. The Board agreed and stated to keep them posted.

2) Plat Book – Update

No updates currently.

3) SECDEA Conference Programs

- **SC Farm Bureau Book Club**

The SC Farm Bureau offers a book for \$5 with a lesson plan or 12 books for \$60 with lesson plans. Richard McGinley stated that he will see if there is an interest with his school contact, and Brent London stated that he will speak with the School Board about this. The District suggested getting a book to see if there is interest.

- **The Bee Cause**

Ann inquired about more information from BEE Cause regarding their classroom sets for \$500. She also mentioned that the mini grants are being offered online now.

- **Ernie the Earthworm**

Ann gave an overview of the Ernie the Earthworm Display Board where students are educated on soil.

- **School Gardens**

Ann discussed this semester long lesson, where books correspond to the garden activities. Volunteers are needed to tend the gardens and for prepping the salads.

- **Farm Inc.**

Ann gave an overview of this realistic project, which is a week-long, with a new, daily focus. The Board would need several partners or agencies to assist since it is a big commitment. Justin Albright stated that he will talk to junior achievement, where we could possibly do a joint adventure. Ann mentioned that she could give Justin a sample folder.

4) Memberships Due

- **Sam's Club**

The Board agreed to renew this membership.

- **IAAP**

The Board agreed to renew this membership.

5) NRCS Report

- **Civil Rights & Equal Employment Opportunities**

Oneisha discussed the Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunities and the Board signed the NRCS acknowledgement of these.

- **Working Groups**

Oneisha did not discuss working groups but would like to discuss in more details, what the District staff can assist her with, at the next meeting, and if staff can possibly attend a training in February.

- **Program Update**

Oneisha gave an overview of her programs, applications, contracts and the Long Leaf Pine Workshop.

Ann mentioned that Nick and Lida both received their Linc passes and Nick has an office key now.

6) FDACS Report

- **Program Update**

Nick Godano and Lida Iravani gave an overview of the cost share program and what is left in funding, the changes to the agenda, and what is expected of them.

- **Tech Contract**
 - **Amendment**
FDACS contacted Ann and stated that they are in the process of sending us an amended contract. Ann reminded James Fort of the error that needs to be corrected.
 - **Budget**
Ann discovered an error in the amount FDACS budgeted for the miscellaneous line item, and Ann is working with James to correct this amount.

7) Staff Report & Recap

- **Cool Season Forage Field Day**
Ann stated that John Rudniansyn invited the Board and staff to the Cool Season Forage Field Day on February 13th from 9 AM to 3 PM, and she needs to register if anyone is interested in attending. Brent London stated that he was interested in going.
- **Associations**
 - **Midyear FCDEA Meeting**
The FCDEA Mid-year meeting is March 1st and 2nd; Ann is still waiting on more info from Betty Jo. The Board approved for Ann to attend last year, but she asked if anyone else would like to attend. Lida Iravani stated that she would like to go; Ann stated that she will need to get the approval from Jody Lee.
 - **Area II Meeting**
The Area II Meeting is on April 9th at the St John's County Agricultural Center, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092. Richard stated that he will not be able to go.
 - **NACD Grants**
The District has missed the NACD deadline for the technical assistance and urban grants, but if the Board is still wanting to pursue these we will have to apply for this upcoming year.
 - **FFA**
FFA contacted Ann right before this meeting asking for Horticulture Judges for March 13th at MTI from 8 AM to early afternoon. Brent London stated that he can judge production. Tom Cartwright stated he will judge artistic. Richard McGinley stated that he will judge, but with no specific area of choice.
- **Contests – Update**
 - **Land Judging**
Land Judging is Friday, January 31st in Trenton. Brent, Oneisha, Lida and Ann are going. Brent is traveling alone; the others are carpooling.
 - **Conservation Landscape Trays**
Ann reviewed the information regarding the Conservation Landscape Trays and went over the times for pick up, drop off, judging, and the awards.
 - **Envirothon**
The Envirothon is March 26th at Horseshoe Lake. Ann reminded the Board she will need their assistance. The Board all agreed to have Carl Corbin serve the food again.
 - **Awards**
The Board agreed not to host an award ceremony and to give the awards to the winners as we go. The Board agreed to give the Conservationist of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and

Teachers of the Year at the Marion County Board of County Commissioners meeting during their first June meeting; Ann stated that she will contact the County to get on the agenda.

- **Work Update**

Ann gave an overview on what she has completed and what she has been working on. Richard McGinley asked about contacting Lynn Rae, who can put our logo on apparel.

8) Upcoming Events

- Land Judging – January 31
- 1099s Due to Producers/Employees – January 31
- Financial Disclosure Supervisor Info Due to State – January 31
- MSWCD Meeting – February 11
- Cool Season Forage Field Day – February 13
- FDACS Reporting Due – February 15
- SEYF CLT Drop Off – February 19
- SEYF CLT Judging – February 20
- SEYF Opens – February 21
- SEYF Awards – February 24
- SEYF CLT Pick Up – February 29
- MSWCD Workshop – February 25

9) Tentative Agenda for MSWCD Board Meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

- 1) MSWCD Board Minutes
- 2) MSWCD Board Financial Report
- 3) Motion to send a letter to the State regarding the audit
- 4) Motion to order one book from the SC Farm Bureau
- 5) Motion to renew the annual memberships for Sam's Club and IAAP
- 6) Motion not to have an award's ceremony and hand out the awards after every contest
- 7) Motion to utilize Carl Corbin's services again for the Envirothon

10) General Public Comments

11) Supervisor Comments

Richard McGinley stated that he will be out of town the 4th through the 14th, so he will not be at our next meeting.

12) Meeting Adjournment

With no other business needing to be addressed, Justin Albright adjourned the meeting at 11:03AM, until our next meeting.

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2020 at 9:30 AM at the USDA Ocala Service Center.

MSWCD's regular meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and their workshops are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Both meetings are located at the USDA Ocala Service Center's Conference Room at 2441 NE 3rd St., Ste 204-2, Ocala, FL 34471. For more information, call (352) 414-7808.