






**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:00 am to 10:30 am**

HB2560 requires that all Oregon public meetings held by a governing body of a public body, excluding executive sessions, must provide to members of the public an opportunity to access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means. This meeting will be held by video conference and by telephone.

-  **Link to Video Conference:** [Zoom Link Here](#)
-  **Meeting Call in Number:** 1 253 215 8782
- Meeting ID:** | **Passcode:** 838 1782 7407 | 507254
-  **Staff Contact:** Susan Ortiz, susan.ortiz@marionswcd.net


Agenda

Chair: Call Meeting to Order, Agenda Changes & Approval

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Time
	Approval of Minutes	Chair	5 min.
1	Updates	Staff	5 min.
2	Increase Maximum Conservation Grant Amount	S. Ortiz	20 min.
3	Special Project Grant program – review grant objective	B. Pineda	30 min
4	Additional Committee Meeting for Strategic Planning	S. Ortiz	5 min
	Meeting Adjournment	Chair	

Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
0	Approval of Minutes Review and approve NR Committee minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting	Review and Approve

 Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise the District Manager at 503-391-9927 as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

1	Program updates by the staff.	No action needed
2	Increase Maximum Grant Amount. Recommendation to increase the maximum grant award for CAG and SPG grants to \$10,000 per year and the 5-year rolling maximum at 3x yearly amount, \$30,000; beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.	Review and Recommend
3	Special Project Grant Program Review objective of grant program "Marion SWCD's Special Projects Grant Program (SPG) was established to provide examples of practices that, if widely adopted, could solve a local area resource concern through either new and innovative technologies, or proven but under-represented technologies."	Review and Discussion
4	Additional Committee Meeting for Strategic Planning The NR Committee will need to add a meeting in April to review and recommend the NR action items under the District's new Strategic Plan; tentatively 2 nd Wednesday, April 10 th at 9:00AM.	Approve

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members	Present/Absent	Staff	Guests
Dave Budeau	X	Chelsea Blank	Peggy Hart
Rochelle Koch	X	Brenda Sanchez	
Leland Hardy	X	Cesar Zamora	
Becky Pineda	X		
Susan Ortiz	X		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
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	Meeting called to order at 9:00am.	
0	Review and approval of previous meeting minutes from December 20, 2023. No revisions were recommended.	Pineda moved to approve the minutes of the December 20th committee meeting. 2nd by Hardy. Motion passed unanimously.
1	Updates: Ortiz shared the new folding brochure created to promote the District's offerings. Partner Grant applications are coming in. An email will come letting committee members know that the evaluation period is open. Our March meeting will focus on those evaluations. Pineda updated that CAG's are currently open with applications coming in, and deadlines in March.	
2	Increase Maximum Grant Amounts: Staff provided a recommendation to increase the amount for conservation grants to \$10,000 along with increasing the 5-year rolling maximum up to \$30,000. This would take effect in FY 24-25. Discussion followed.	Pineda moved that we recommend to the board to increase the maximum grant amount of the conservation grants (CAG, Cover Crop, and SPG) to \$10,000 and concurrently increase the 5-year rolling maximum to \$30,000. 2nd by Hardy. Motion passed unanimously.
3	Special Project Grant Program: Staff brought this grant program back to the discussion again to make sure we are in agreement of the objective of the grant, if the grant should be continued, review allowable project types and expenses, and if the application needs revised. Discussion followed. Hardy voiced that it is important that the SPG is not considered a slush fund for projects that don't fit other grant programs. He does agree that it is an important program, but has not seen a lot of activity lately. Promotion of SPG's was discussed. We talked about sending articles to the Farm Bureau, writing blog posts for our website, and conducting tours of completed projects. Allowable expenses clarification: Justifiable consultation fees, overhead costs, and dedicated equipment may be reimbursed by grant funding. However, some of these costs may be used as in-kind contribution to the project and will be determined upon the individual situation. Application process and form: Applicants to submit an LOI on Foundant, similar to the CAG process,	No recommendation needed for Board approval. See left column for clarifications to the SPG program.

then complete the application upon approval of the LOI.
Budget: Include \$30,000 in the FY 24-25 budget for SPG.

- 4 **Additional Committee Meeting for Strategic Planning:**
Ortiz discussed our current committee meeting schedule posted below. Sanchez spoke about the need for an April 10th meeting which has been added for this committee to approve the work plan activities of the Natural Resources Team. **Informational, no action.**
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2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every other month, beginning with March. Meeting time is 9:00AM-10:30AM

- February 14
 - March 13 (Partner Grant Application review; budget recommendations)
 - April 10 (Strategic Planning)
 - May 8
 - July 10 (possibility to cancel if not needed)
 - September 11 (Partner Grant Application review)
 - November 13
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Meeting adjourned at 10:27am.
