

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Board of Directors September 4, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes
 6:31 PM to 7:57 PM
 Facilitator: Chair Olson
 Recorded by: Brenda Sanchez
 Approved 10-10-24

Directors & Record of Attendance	Associate Directors
At Large 1-Peggy Hart	Present Angela Plowhead
At Large 2-Scott Walker	Present
Zone 1-Vacant	Vacant
Zone 2-Vacant	Vacant
Zone 3-Darin Olson (Chair)	Present
Zone 4-Dave Budeau (Secretary-Treasurer)	Present
Zone 5-Rochelle Koch (Vice-Chair)	Present
Staff	Guests
Rachel Kato	Tony Shepherd
Becky Pineda	Les Bachelor
Brenda Sanchez	
Cesar Zamora	

Note: All documents and materials displayed or referenced are retained in the Board of Directors Meeting file at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (Marion SWCD or District).

A. Olson Call to Order: 6:31 PM

B. Announcements - None

C. Agenda Additions or Changes – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract for signature and OACD Support for Bilingual Pesticide Safety Education and Training Legislation. **Hart agreed, 2nd by Koch.**

1. Public Comment

No Public Comment

2. District Snapshot

Sanchez shared a few photos from the Staff and Board Retreat at the North Santiam River Float and Picnic.

Sanchez was stopped because the virtual attendees could not hear the meeting. Sanchez fixed the microphone. Olson went back to Public Comment to see if we missed any comments. None were shared.

Sanchez returned to the District Snapshot and shared the most recent concepts for the building sign-mural with the Board. Walker adds that he discussed with another muralist that stated costs could be up to \$5,000 for upkeep over five years. The Directors shared their views on the concept such as color and other mural ideas. Some liked the mixed color style and others liked the blue color.

Action: Koch motioned that the Board **authorize the District Manager to continue with the mural concept**, 2nd by Hart. Walker states that he feels this is not a necessary project. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-1 [Walker]).

Staff Reports:

Pineda shared her work from the summer with the Board such as Cover Crop Assistance program and have been working with three new farmers to engage in the program. Pineda added that she has been conducting outreach with Farm Bureau and Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, and working with seed vendors. Partner Grant work, such as completing site visits for the applications. Pineda described how she has been working on re-focusing on the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), drafting an outreach project. Pineda ended by noting she has been working with watershed council as the liaison, sharing information and updates with them. Shepherd asked via chat what is an SIA? Pineda explained. Hart asked to describe further the SIA work. Pineda explained that she and Zamora will be conducting an outreach event in the Howell-Prairie watershed – SIA to promote agricultural water quality and promote riparian vegetation and provide free trees at the event. Sanchez added that there are funds to update and print the Rural Handbook; Heath Keirstead (staff) is working to update the handbook. Walker asked who the new contacts are that she is working with, Pineda conveyed that they are farmers looking to engage in cover cropping, these are new contacts and I have worked over the year to meet new landowners and a few have responded to her outreach at meetings and booths.

Zamora shared that he has been sampling for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP), one final sampling event this summer still left. Zamora and Kassi Roosth (staff) were training on sediment sampling for the PSP, so that next season they will be taking sediment samples as well water; adds that he is almost done with the PSP Outreach Strategy. Attended the Englewood Forest Festival. Working on a new form to use in the field for site visits using iPads. Sanchez

added that he and the staff completed Homeschool Day estimated 300 students attended the Oregon Garden hosted event.

3. Treasurers Report July 2024

Budeau, began by noting that this is the first month of the new 2024-25 fiscal year. Budeau points out that we are getting more (in dollar amount) previously levied taxes at this time of year than normal, suggesting that we might be able to collect the remainder of the projected taxes from last fiscal year.

Action: Walker motioned that the Board **accept the July 2024 Treasurers Report**, 2nd by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-0).

D. August 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Budeau begins by saying he reviewed the draft minutes and returned some edits. Sanchez displays Draft 1 with Budeau's edits; some minor edits and grammar Sanchez says she will correct.

Action: Koch motioned that the Board **approve the August 7 Board Meeting Minutes**, 2nd by Hart. Discussion. Walker wanted to add his comment regarding the Stan Vistica Scholarship that he made into the minutes. Sanchez added the language: Walker adds "that he would prefer to help more students rather than carrying a one student over time" Koch amended her motion, motioning that the Board **approve the August 7 Board Meeting Minutes with the added language from Walker regarding the Stan Vistica Scholarship**, 2nd by Hart. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-0).

E. United States Department Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Report

Bachelor updated the Board starting with the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has received more funds, we have until September 15, 2024, to distribute those funds. Bachelor predicts the CSP will provide a big workload; more sign ups than ever before. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program did well, and most of those funds have been used. IRA energy contracts for irrigation improvements. Bachelor has been focused on retirement; the end of December 2024. Greg Becker the new State Conservationist was here in Marion County; Bachelor gave him a tour of the valley. There was a brief discussion regarding, orchard maintenance, and dust plumes and nutrient management plans.

F. Yamhill SWCD Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)-Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) Grant

Zamora provided information regarding the PSP grant that Yamhill SWCD was awarded from Oregon Department of Agriculture. Yamhill is asking that we sign an IGA so we can work together on the PSP grant project entailing grower outreach and convening local grower groups (one in Marion and one in Yamhill), to discuss Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the use of imidacloprid pesticide. Zamora stated that imidacloprid has been detected at greater than expected levels in water samples. The project will also use traps and trap monitoring (pheromone) to see if hazelnut pests (filbert worm) are controlled by using IPM practices and less imidacloprid. Olson shared his concerns regarding the project and the risk of alienating individuals from contacting the District because we are working to reduce the use of imidacloprid. Olson would like more time to understand the project and get more information and to bring this IGA back in the October 2024 meeting. Olson would like to see a copy of the grant application. Hart agrees with Olson on making sure we have the project details. Walker also would like more information to make his decision. Budeau stated he would like more information than hearsay, preferring documentation of the concerns voiced by Olson. Directors discussed the use of imidacloprid and what are the problems related to its use.

G. Conservation Assistance Grants

Grants Completed

Completed grants were displayed. No discussion. Walker would like to see the final (actual) award amount for the District and the actual match along with the final project grant total upon completion.

H. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Sanchez presented the CREP Conservation Plan submitted by Rachel Kato (CREP Technician) after the packets went out. Kato needs the signature of Marion SWCD to move this contract forward and it is due at the end of September and is why it is being submitted at the Board meeting tonight. Kato provided some background on the contract schedule and the project details. Walker asked what type of plants will be planted, Kato replied that native shrubs and trees. Mulching was discussed, Kato says that they strategically use mulch in areas where the ground is bare. Directors discussed the challenges of mulch and the project timeline.

Action: Koch motioned that the Board **approve the CREP contract**, 2nd by Walker. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-0).

Olson moves on to the second part of the CREP contracts to be addressed, and proposes that when a CREP contract comes in, the District Manager can elect to approve and sign the contract. Walker adds that he agrees with this process; there are no District funds and this is a federal project and the District Manager could complete this and have report come to the Board on signed contracts. Budeau agrees with Walker. Hart asked why we must sign these and not the other NRCS contracts. Sanchez explains that we are responsible for Marion CREP contracts through our grant obligations that pay for a CREP technician. Directors deliberated the CREP contract process.

Action: Walker motioned that the Board **delegate to the District manager the approval and signing of all future CREP contracts**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-0).

Sanchez ensured she will invite Kato to provide CREP updates to the Board.

Plowhead, as chair is moving the Admin Committee Meeting to September 13, 2024.

Koch added that the Natural Resource Committee for September was cancelled.

I. Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Request: Bilingual Pesticide Safety Education and Training Legislation

Sanchez read from the OACD letter, that the Oregon's agricultural workforce is predominantly Latino and Spanish-speaking, yet there is a lack of state-lead Spanish-language pesticide safety educational resources. This affects the ability of people to safeguard themselves from pesticide exposure, understand regulatory requirements, and ensure environmental protection. Additionally, the Private Pesticide Applicators License, essential for regulatory compliance, remains largely inaccessible to this population due to systemic barriers. OACD is asking for SWCD support and allowing OACD to add our District logo to the letter of support for the bill asking for legislature to allocate funds for two full time staff to deliver in-person Spanish language pesticide application training, focusing on safety pesticide handling.

Action: Walker motioned that the Board **supports OACD in submitting a bill requesting allocation of funds for Bilingual Pesticide Safety Education and Training**, 2nd by Hart. Discussion Olson raised the concerns that there are other communities such as Russians in Marion County who need the education. Directors discussed the different communities in Marion County. Olson adds

there may be other legislation in play regarding landscaping and pesticide use.
MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau], Opposed-0).

The Board discussed the retirement of Les bachelor and that the Board would like to signify his retirement with a gift. Sanchez is working on it and Bachelor was asked to attend the November Board meeting in person so we can have a retirement “party”.

To accommodate Directors’ schedules, the October Board meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, October 10.

Adjourn: Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM



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