






**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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:** [\(Zoom\) Meeting Link](#)
-  **Meeting Call in Number:** 1 (253) 215 - 8782
- Meeting ID:** 834 9712 8477 | **Passcode:** 316646
-  **Staff Contact:** Heath Keirstead, heath.keirstead@marionswcd.net

Agenda

Chair: Call Meeting to Order, Agenda Changes & Approval

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Purpose	Time
1	Introductions	H. Keirstead	Procedure	3 min
2	Public Comment	H. Keirstead	Feedback	2 min
3	New Committee Roles for 2024	H. Keirstead	Procedure	3 min
4	Review Minutes from Sept 19 & November 21	K. Roosth	Discuss & Accept Minutes	2 min
5	CLEAR Grant request: Salem Audubon Society Traveling Education Program	H. Keirstead	Determine recommendation to present to the Board	5 min
6	2024 Ed Committee Meetings & Grant Deadlines	K. Roosth	Discussion	5 min
7	Partner Grants Process & CLEAR grant budget changes	S. Ortiz	Review	5 min
8	SWCD Apprenticeship	D. Olson	Discussion	15 min
9	Updates	Staff	Discussion	10 min
Meeting Adjournment		Chair		



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Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
3	Need to elect a new chair. Kassi Roosth will be meeting facilitator, Heath Keirstead will be the note taker.	Vote for new chair
4	We weren't able to accept the September minutes in November because of committee attendance. So now we are reviewing and accepting both September and November minutes.	Review/Accept
5	<p>CLEAR Grant request: Salem Audubon Society Traveling Education Program</p> <p>Request: \$2000; \$400 for supplies and \$1600 for instruction fees.</p> <p>The CLEAR grant will provide scholarships for local education programs to cover the \$45.00 cost of Salem Audubon Society's Traveling Education Program. Our program brings conservation issues to local area schools and events with the goal of sparking a lifelong interest in nature and the out of doors. Topics covered include: discovering birds and bird habitat; Oregon bats; beavers; Oregon owls; birds in hand; building nest boxes to replace lost habitat; riparian areas; backyard pollinator habitat; and mason bee basics.</p>	Develop recommendation to present to the Board in December.
Important Dates Summary		
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CLEAR grant deadlines <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2/7/24 b. 4/3/24 c. 9/4/24 d. 11/5/24 2. EO Committee Meetings (Mostly 3rd Tuesday) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2/20/24 b. 3/19/24 (Budget review) change to March 13 c. 4/16/24 d. 7/16/24 e. 9/17/24 f. 11/19/24 3. Board Action (Grant Approvals) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 3/6/24 b. 5/1/24 c. 10/2/24 d. 12/4/24 4. Funds Disbursed to Grant Recipients <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 3/11-15/24 b. 5/6-10/24 c. 10/7-11/24 d. 12/9-13/24 5. Stan Vistica Memorial Scholarship <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Application window opened: November, 2023 b. Early Bird Deadline: February 15, 2024 c. Final Application Deadline: March 1, 2024 d. Determine Amount to Offer for FY 24-25 e. MSWCD Review Process: Early to mid-May, 2024 f. Final decision: End of May (at request of OSAC) 	Discuss and make changes if needed

7	Partner Grants – Susan will review the process and timeline.
8	SWCD apprenticeship idea (Darin Olson)
9	Staff will provide updates if time permits.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members	Present/ Absent	Attendance	
		Staff	Guests
Darin Olson	present	Becky Pineda	
Peggy Hart	present	Brenda Sanchez	
Mark Fields	present	Susan Ortiz	
Heath Keirstead	present		
Kassi Roosth	present		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
1	Introductions.	
2	No public comment.	
3	Committee Chair. Darin Olson nominated Peggy Hart, Mark Fields seconded. No other nominations, no discussion. All in favor.	Peggy Hart nominated to serve 1-year term as Education Committee Chair. (Unan.)
4	Minutes. Darin Olson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Mark Fields seconded.	September and November meeting minutes accepted as submitted. (Unan.)
5	Salem Audubon CLEAR grant. Darin Olson recommended that we approve the SAS Traveling Education Program to the Board for funding. Peggy Hart seconded. All in favor.	Recommend to the Board that they approve the CLEAR grant funding for Salem Audubon Society Traveling Education Program in the full amount of \$2000. (Unan.)
6	Grant Deadlines and Committee Meetings. See info shared in Brief. April 16 meeting will be for strategic planning elements discussion. Susan Ortiz mentioned that the partner grant review should be completed by March 15. Holding an Ed Committee meeting on March 19 makes the turnaround too tight. We will meet on March 13 instead at 11:30 am.	CLEAR grant and committee meeting schedule accepted with one change: March meeting of Ed Committee will be held Mar. 13 at 11:30 am.
7	Change to Grant Limitation Policy - Susan Ortiz shared that the Natural Resources Committee reviewed a proposal to change the annual maximum CAG ask to \$10,000 and 5-year rolling maximum to \$30,000. In the last 10 years we have experienced 30% inflation, so \$7,500 buys less. The Natural Resources Committee is recommending those	Recommend to the board that the Grant Limitation Policy be adjusted so the one-year max allocation be \$10,000 per applicant and five-year rolling maximum be \$30,000 per applicant. (Unan.)

increases in the Grant Limitation Policy to the Board with the change going into effect for FY 24-25. The Committee discussed that this Policy is an umbrella for all MSWCD grants, including CLEAR. Policy will need to be revised and approved by board. It's multi-step process.

Action: Peggy Hart moved that we agree with NR Committee to recommend to the Board that the Grant Limitation Policy be amended to allow a maximum \$10,000 per year allocation per applicant and a maximum of \$30,000 per applicant per rolling 5-year period. Darin Olson seconded. All in favor.

Note: We will discuss: a) the Education Budget for FY 24-25, including CLEAR grant budgeted amount, and b) an increase for one-time CLEAR grant ask from \$2000 to \$5,000 (a committee decision) at the March meeting.

Susan Ortiz provided an overview of the **Partner Grant Review Process** in Foundant. Reviewers will score each application on that application's merits on a scale from 0 to 50. Susan Ortiz will send an email that these are ready to review by COB 2/21/24. We received 10 applications total for this first round of Partner Grants.

8 **Conservation Apprenticeship** – a lot of younger people that would like to go into conservation but don't want to go to college. Darin Olson suggests that the District work with partners to develop a paid 2 or 3-year conservation apprenticeship. After completing the apprenticeship, participants would work for the District or one of the partners for x-amount of time. Chemeketa Community College could give a certificate with apprenticeship completion. The idea was generally liked by the committee members. Questions raised: 1) How similar is it to other tech degrees Chemeketa gives, how different? 2) Has Darin Olson talked to NRCS or other groups that might participate in this with us? Darin Olson has talked to Chemeketa and Straub. He visualizes apprentices having their choice of focusing on different things like education or planning. 3) Who would be paying? Would we be paying for someone to be at Straub? Funding mechanism is complex. Darin Olson's gut feeling is that they would get paid minimum wage. They would do 1-2 years working for us. For many jobs

Committee will talk about it again next month. We will all do some research about these types of programs and how they work.

you need 5 years experience or a degree. 4) What funding mechanisms could we get to help us pay for this? 5) What would it look like in the end? 6) Could we have a small pilot program and act as a conduit to others who could hire. 7) Could we host and a federal apprenticeship program pays them? 8) What is the data that there is a real shortage of people wanting to go into conservation? OACD was saying that in remote areas are having a hard time getting people to apply. 9) Could it fit into a 1 year apprenticeship? Or maybe a 1 year option with a second year option to commit to later. Might be tight with the idea that we want them to take some course work. 10) Consider in strategic plan? Maybe go broad for strategic planning with a mention of career pathways; mention as future potential area for growth.

Brenda Sanchez: Define the word apprenticeship better. Maybe apprenticeship or internship gives someone enough skills to come in at technician level and over a certain number of years they could work up to planner level.

Next Steps: Committee will talk about it again next month. We will all do some research about these types of programs and how they work. Might have to go on Board agenda as a new business item.

9 **Updates** – Peggy Hart mentioned that on April 16 is Woodburn High School’s Career Night. It is during CONNECT so staff won’t be available to attend this year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.