






**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 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 (none)	H. Keirstead	Feedback	2 min
3	Review Minutes from February 20th	H. Keirstead	Discuss & Accept Minutes	2 min
4	Partner Grant Review: Institute of Applied Ecology	S. Ortiz	Determine recommendations to present to the Board	15 min
5	Partner Grant Review: Pudding River Watershed	S. Ortiz	Determine recommendations to present to the Board	15 min
6	Partner Grant Review: Westminster Church	S. Ortiz	Determine recommendations to present to the Board	15 min
7	Partner Grant Review: Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm	S Ortiz	Determine recommendations to present to the Board	15 min
8	CLEAR grant per application limit	Olson	Determine new limits	15 min
	Meeting Adjournment	Chair		



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Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
3	Review and accept meeting minutes from the February 20 th committee meeting.	Review/Accept
4	<p>Partner Grant request: Institute of Applied Ecology Champoeg Prairie Harvest Area Enhancement.</p> <p>Request: \$34,455.93 Marion SWCD Grant Funds. In-kind matching funds: \$19,200.</p> <p>The partner grant will provide funds that would support labor, supplies, mileage, and indirect costs to enhance prairie habitat at Champoeg State Heritage Area to improve ecosystem function and increase the abundance and diversity of native and culturally significant prairie species that can be harvested by tribal members.</p>	Develop recommendations to present to the Board in April
5	<p>Partner Grant request: Pudding River Watershed Council: Native Plant Outreach Plot.</p> <p>Request: \$19,220.85 Marion SWCD Grant Funds. In-kind matching funds: \$8,800.</p> <p>The partner grant will provide funds that would support staff time, deferred maintenance, nursery updates, advertisements, storage and toolshed, and admin fees to steward a 0.6-acre mature native plant plot at OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, Oregon.</p>	Develop recommendations to present to the Board in April.
6	<p>Partner Grant request: Westminster Church Habitat Improvement</p> <p>Request: \$1,346 Marion SWCD Grant Funds. In-kind matching funds: \$696.</p> <p>The partner grant will provide funds that would support supplies, materials, and services for habitat improvements by removing invasive blackberries and planting native plants in specific areas of the 5.97-acre forested campus of the church community grounds.</p>	Develop recommendations to present to the Board in April
7	<p>Partner Grant request: The Wisdom of Elderberry Native American Climate Adaptation Partnership</p> <p>Request: \$174,000 Marion SWCD Grant Funds. In-kind matching funds: \$35,000.</p> <p>The partner grant will provide funds that would support The Native American Climate Adaptation Partnership to restore and maintain Mid-Willamette Valley ecosystems in collaborative partnerships that integrate TEK habitat restoration and climate adaptation strategies with local conservation policies and practices.</p>	Develop recommendations to present to the Board in April

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members	Present/ Absent	Attendance	
		Staff	Guests
Darin Olson	present	Janice Calkins	
Peggy Hart	present	Susan Ortiz	
Mark Fields	present	Sarah Hamilton	
Heath Keirstead	present	Brenda Sanchez	
Kassi Roosth	absent		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
1	Call to order at 11:00 am. Peggy Hart added discussion of CLEAR grant application limits to end of committee meeting.	
2	No public comment.	
3	Darin Olson moves to approve the minutes as submitted. Mark Fields seconded. (Unan: 4:0)	Motion: Olson; Second: Fields. All in favor. (Unan: 4:0) Minutes approved.
4-7	Darin Olson moved that we approve all partner grants, Mark Fields seconded. Susan Oritz asked for clarification on Wisdom of Elderberry: Olson had marked that one as “Defer to staff.” Olson is fine to move them all forward. Peggy Hart would like discussion on all four partner grants with educational aspects. Discussion: A) Institute for Applied Ecology: prairie enhancement- taking place at Champoeg, in cooperation with State Parks and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Project has a large volunteer aspect doing work on the ground. Avg. Rank: 46 out of 50. B) 2 nd application – Native American Climate Adaptation Partnership – has lots of partners. Has education and outreach and project implementation. Applicant plans to continue training of underrepresented youth, using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), hands-on projects. AVG. Rank: 49 if don’t include “defer.” Susan Ortiz reminded the committee that if an application receives 3 or more “defer” or “do not fund” marks, it is automatically denied. At Darin Olson’s suggestion, Ortiz will remove his “defer/0” score from the total. C) 3 rd project – Pudding River Native Plant Outreach Plot. Pudding River Watershed Council will work with OSU Experiment Station in Aurora on their native plant nursery. The purpose is to grow native plants for projects mainly	All in favor of recommending these four Partner Grants for funding in full to the Board. Motion: Olson; Second: Fields. (Unan: 4:0)

within Marion SWCD's district. The plot is not located within District boundaries, although the majority of people it will benefit are in Marion District. AVG. Rank: 45.3. D) Westminster habitat improvement – located within City of Salem, remove invasives, add natives, mostly done by volunteers. Overall, their requested amount is much lower than what we usually see for these types of projects, but this is their first grant. AVG Rank: 44.5.

All in favor of recommending these four Partner Grants for funding in full to the Board. None opposed.

Olson commented that it is confusing to have multiple recommendations from the different committees. It would be good to figure out how to have the Partner Grants reviewed by one committee. Those will be brought forward at May meeting hopefully. The next Partner Grant cycle will open mid-June and close August 15. If needed, Susan Ortiz will make process improvement recommendations to the board for their consideration.

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Discussion of the \$2000 limit per CLEAR grant application. According to Olson, many years ago, the committee had the authority to give out money themselves, the committee was limited to \$2000 that they could give out without board approval. At the time, that covered what the needs were. There is no longer a need to keep the \$2000 limit. Darin suggested that we change it to match the other committees' limits. We can talk about and do whatever we want to do. Why limit educators more than CAG applicants? Ortiz provided this information: Outside of Salmon Watch, we received 6 CLEAR grant applications last year – all were \$2000 or more. At the April meeting we can look at Salmon Watch in particular to see what we want to offer. Olson moved that we change the per application limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and then amended the motion to: Change the per CLEAR grant application limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and for people with three successful years of applications, they can apply for up to \$7,500 per application. All in favor.

Motion: Olson; Second: Fields. (Unan: 4:0) The limit per CLEAR grant application changed from \$2000 to \$5000, with a \$7500 per application limit for applicants with three successful years of applications.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 am
