

Date 10/27/09

Recorder Janice Calkins

Chair Douglas Krahmer

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

Location: Benedictine Sisters' Hospitality Center
840 S Main St
Mt. Angel, OR
Date: October 26, 2009
Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

There were 85 people in attendance.

WELCOME / SIGN IN

In the foyer of the center, guests were greeted by a welcome sign, a table of assorted brochures and informational sheets, as well as posters which displayed the winning poster art entries in Marion SWCD's 2009 Annual Poster Contest. The year's poster contest theme being: "Dig It!" "The Secrets of the Soil." From there, guests were directed to sign-in and monies were collected as needed by cashiers (Keppinger & Ortiz) for those guests choosing to partake of the meal being served. Each guest was then directed into the dining room, where several tables were in reserve for the guests receiving recognition awards. Others were able to choose a seat wherever they pleased amongst the 12 rectangular tables set up (each accommodating a total of 10 guests comfortably). On top of each table, 10 tickets were placed, for distribution amongst the guests, to be used for the drawing of door prizes, which would occur later in the evening. There were many introductions and conversations taking place in the room before the meeting began.

Call to Order/Dinner

Jane Keppinger welcomed everyone to Marion Soil and Water Conservation District's 2009 Annual Dinner / Meeting. She then introduced the Directors, Associate Directors, Staff members, partners and distinguished guests to all present. Immediately following, she asked Darin Olson, the District's Vice-Chairman of the Board to say a few words. Olson voiced how he was proud to be affiliated with Marion SWCD and proud of the many things the District is working to accomplish. He informed everyone that this evening they would be able to learn about a few accomplishments achieved in 2009. He then indicated there would be a break for dinner, and encouraged the guests to step forward and partake of the meal offered. (A buffet of BBQ chicken and side dishes, prepared by Shaw's Quality Meats Catering awaited them).

Door Prizes Given

Staff joined together and drew tickets from a concealed container. The winning numbers from the tickets selected were announced and a-round of gifts was distributed to the lucky recipients/guests.

Summary of Accomplishments/Financial Report

At approximately 6:50 PM Olson opened the meeting by providing highlights from the District's Financial Report. Following this, Staff joined him at the podium, and provided the guests a PowerPoint Presentation depicting projects they had each been involved with during the past year.

Ron Crouse opened, providing a quick overview of the work he does for Marion SWCD as Education and Outreach Coordinator. He covered an array of topics: Conservation Education, the CLEAR (Conservation Learning Education and Resources) Grant Program, and Oregon Envirothon.

Jenny Meisel, Resource Conservationist-Invasive Species/Native Plant Specialist, stepped forward providing a presentation on both the Invasive Species Survey project (surveys were conducted along the North Santiam River for invasive weeds), and the Native Plant Sale, that she was in charge of this year.

Keldah Hedstrom, Resource Conservationist, presented an overview of the Manure Exchange Program and Special Projects (SPG) Grant she is directly involved with and responsible for.

Scott Eden, Resource Conservationist, presented an overview of the Water Quality Monitoring Program he is involved with as well as AWEP (Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program).

Mark Hadden, Flow Monitoring Specialist, presented an overview of the Water Quantity/Flow Monitoring program he is directly involved in.

Luca DeStefanis, Resource Conservationist, presented an overview of the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and RCAP (Riparian Conservation Action Program) that he works with and is responsible for.

The Awards Program followed.

- Scott Hopkins was awarded “Educator of the Year” by Ron Crouse.
- Barbara Bellows, NRCS, was given a “Thank You Award” by Luca DeStefanis, for the technical assistance she provided the District throughout 2009.
- Ken Bush, citizen of Marion County, was awarded the “Distinguished Service Award” for his volunteer work by Janice Calkins.
- Jerry Reigers of Landmark Awards and Engraving was presented the “Business Partner Award” by Jane Keppinger.
- David Budeau, landowner, was awarded a “Habitat Restoration Award” by Scott Eden.
- Landowner, Tim Cayton, was awarded the “Cooperator of the Year” by Luca DeStefanis.
- And a “Special Recognition Award” was presented to a staff member, “Susan Ortiz” (Administrative Coordinator), by Jane Keppinger.

Close Business Meeting

At approximately 8:25 Darin Olson, Vice-Chair officially closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance. It was then time for:

More Door Prizes!

District Manager, Jane Keppinger and her Staff proceeded to pull tickets from a container, and presented the remaining gifts to the winning ticket holders.

The District thanked the many supporting businesses that donated items for the evening’s prizes: Al’s Garden Center, Egan Gardens, Great Harvest Bread Co., Schiedler Family Nursery, Heritage Seedlings, Inc., Fred Meyer Store (Market St.), and Capital Press (Newspaper).

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:29 PM.

Minutes submitted by Janice (Bryant) Calkins.