

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

Location: Creekside Golf Club
6250 Clubhouse Dr., SE
Salem, OR 97306
Date: October 20, 2008
Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

There were approximately 75 people in attendance.

Door Prize Sign-Ups & Poster Contest Voting

The evening began with guest attendees checking in at the sign-in/cashiers table. Each guest then received a ticket for a drawing that would be held later in the evening, whereby door prizes would be won and distributed. Each guest was encouraged to proceed to a designated area within the large dining room where the 2008 Annual Elementary Poster Contest finalist's entries were being displayed, so that they could cast a winning vote for their favorite posters. This year's Poster theme was "Water is Life". There were many introductions and conversations taking place in the room during this time.

Call to Order/Dinner

Jane Keppinger welcomed everyone to Marion Soil and Water Conservation District's 2008 Annual Dinner / Meeting. She then introduced Doug Krahrmer, the District's Chairman of the Board at approximately 6:10 PM. Krahrmer opened the meeting, also welcoming everyone who was in attendance. He then introduced the attending Directors, Associate Directors, and Staff members. Dinner (provided by Creekside Golf Club) was served buffet style beginning at approximately 6:15 PM.

Summary of Accomplishments/Financial Report

At approximately 7:00 PM Krahrmer thanked Janice Calkins and the Staff for their work in organizing this evening's event giving acknowledgment and thanks to Creekside Golf Club for the wonderful meal served. Krahrmer next summarized the 2007-2008 Marion SWCD Accomplishments and reviewed the Financial Statement from the Annual Report.

Luca De Stefanis Presents the Land Owner Assistance Program

Luca De Stefanis, one of the District's Resource Conservationists gave an informational presentation/overview of the LAP program. He enlightened the group as to the value of the program, whom it serves and the number of conservation projects that had been implemented and completed during this past fiscal-year. This program is growing larger and larger each year, by both participation and funding allocations, and is proven to be beneficial to Marion County by the mere numbers of environmental friendly practices being implemented.

Water Flow Monitoring Program

Doug Krahrmer asked Mark Hadden, the District's Water Flow Monitoring Specialist, if he might take a minute or two to describe the work he and Scott Eden are doing for the District. Mark introduced himself to the audience and apologized for not having made any advance preparation for giving a talk at this point in time, as this was a totally unexpected request. Mark, however, did a great job of explaining how the District has been compiling data obtained from several local waterways with regards to their water quality, quantity or ebb and flow. The data collected encompasses many variables such as: content, water flow, temperature and so on. He provided

the group a brief overview of his own personal work experience, his knowledge and skills and explained how he had contacted the District in hopes of volunteering his services. He was surprised to find he was immediately welcomed on board and hired to assist Scott Eden in compiling data and updating the monitoring systems being used. Mark in-turn introduced Scott Eden, and the two provided additional information about the purpose and goals of the work being done.

Ron Crouse Presents High School Videos

Ron Crouse, the District's Educational and Outreach Coordinator shared with the audience, that the District had created two new Grant Programs this year. One of these Grants was ordained the "Conservation Learning Education and Resources Grant" (aka CLEAR) which as the name implies pertains to educational type projects/programs. The other Grant recently created was named a "Special Project Grant." The purpose: to help in providing funding for conservation related projects which do not normally qualify for funding under other type Grants available. Each of these grants having a funding cap of \$1,000.00 per calendar year per group/individual. Thanks to the new CLEAR Grant, the District was able to award a local High School with the money they wanted/needed to purchase a video camera (\$1,000.00). Ron Crouse said to the audience, "Like you, we wondered how in the world a video camera was going to be used to promote conservation". But upon questioning the applicants we realized that their request was valid, logically thought out and worthy of funding. This High School class wished to produce a series of educational videos relating to conservation, and the environment - so to educate and increase public awareness on the topics covered. Ron Crouse was elated to report that he had just received copies of (3) new educational videos created by these students. A large projector screen set up in the dining room, was soon displaying the 3-video shorts that were not only fun to watch, but held valuable and interesting information. One video featured Mary Logalbo (a former Staff member of Marion SWCD) conducting a class on noxious weeds. Each video seen was done creatively and professional.

Awards Program

Doug Kramer, Scott Eden, Ron Crouse, Luca DeStefanis, Jane Keppinger and Janice Calkins each worked to facilitated the awards presentation which began at approximately 7:40 PM. The following awards were presented:

- Helen Howard received the Volunteer of the Year Award.
- Aislinn Adams received the Educational Cooperator of the Year Award.
- Sheila Ault received a Distinguished Service Award.
- Tanya Beard received a Special Recognition Award.
- Ron Sacchi received the Cooperator of the Year Award.
- Leland Hardy received the Associate Director of the Year Award.

Close Business Meeting

At approximately 8:10 Doug Krahmer officially closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance. It was then time for:

Door Prizes

District Manager, Jane Keppinger and her Staff proceeded to pull tickets from a hat and presented a series of gifts to the winning ticket holders. She thanked the businesses and individuals that donated items for this evening's prizes: Al's Garden Center, Starbucks Coffee, Sweets 'N' Things, Egan Gardens, Great Harvest Bread Co., Schiedler Family Nursery, Heritage Seedlings, Inc., Fred Meyer Store, Creekside Golf Club, Adelman Peony Gardens, Capital Press, IOKA Farms Elevator.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Janice (Bryant) Calkins.