

FY 18-19 Annual Report

	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
General Fund Beginning Balance	\$ 1,294,629	\$ 1,138,826
Resources		
Marion County taxes	1,002,773	1,107,691
Income from other agencies	105,988	108,152
Interest income	31,451	20,828
Miscellaneous	29,316	20,700
Total resources	1,169,528	1,257,371
Requirements		
Personal services	672,617	543,894
Materials and services	652,145	513,720
Capital outlay	1,823	3,954
Transfers out	50,000	40,000
Total requirements	1,376,585	1,101,568
General Fund Ending Balance	\$ 1,087,572	\$ 1,294,629

	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Reserve Funds Beginning Balance	\$ 1,064,957	\$ 1,004,129
Resources		
Transfers in	50,000	40,000
Interest income	31,451	20,828
Total resources	81,451	60,828
Requirements		
Capital outlay	30,062	-
Reserve Funds Ending Balance	\$ 1,116,346	\$ 1,064,957

Annual Meeting

To be announced in January.

Please check the

website or

sign up for our

email list and get our latest news.

The Marion SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, religion, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, mental or physical disability, marital status, age or other protected status or activity in accordance with applicable law.



**New Logo!
New Look!
Same great service
and people!**



**Marion Soil & Water
Conservation District**

338 Hawthorne Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97301-4607

503.391.9927

www.marionswcd.net

The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a special district of Oregon. The SWCD is governed by a locally elected, volunteer Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Marion SWCD Offices: 338 Hawthorne Ave NE, Salem.

Meetings are open to the public and start at 7 PM.

Directors

Doug Krahmer - Zone 1

Vacant - Zone 2

Darin Olson - Zone 3

Tim Bielenberg - Zone 4

Rochelle Koch - Zone 5

Terry Hsu - At Large 1 (Chair)

Scott Walker - At Large 2 (Vice-Chair)

Associate Directors

Leland Hardy

Mark Fields

Dave Budeau

For information or agendas, contact us at

Office@marionswcd.net or look on our website:
www.marionswcd.net.

NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

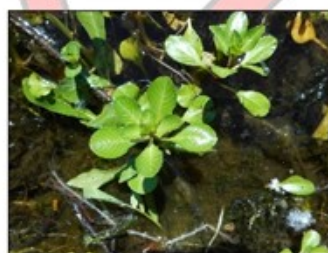
WATER PRIMROSE



Water primrose is considered one of the worst invasive plants in the world.

It is highly aggressive and typically grows in shallow, slow moving or still water and on the adjacent shoreline.

- Forms large dense mats
- Wildlife cannot swim in infested areas
- Limits recreation and water use
- Clogs waterways, degrades water quality, decreases fish habitat



NORTH SANTIAM
watershed council



CREATE A PLAN FOR YOUR LAND

Free to attend!

Learn from local experts about soil, water, and wildlife conservation.

These classes are geared toward small farms and rural properties, but any one is welcome to join us. Please plan on attending all meetings.

Marion SWCD and North Santiam WC will provide technical assistance to complete a conservation plan and potentially find funding for conservation projects on your land.

Register:
<https://pfyl-2020.eventbrite.com>

All meetings at:
Broadway Commons
Keizer Room
1300 Broadway St NE
Salem, OR 97301
5—7:30 PM

1/16/20: Conservation Planning & Vegetation

1/23/20: Water & Soil

1/30/20: Streamsides & Woodlands

2/6/20: Agriculture Land & Action Plans



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First Friday @
Marion SWCD



December 6:
Irrigation Efficiency
(related to agriculture)

January 3:
Pond Maintenance
w/ the Watermaster
(topic will pertain to large ponds,
not landscape ponds)

February 7:
Winter Twig ID
(for everyone)

March 6:
Composting
(for the backyard enthusiast)

To register:

Please call 503-391-9927
or email
jenny.ammon@marionswcd.net

Join Marion SWCD staff and
subject matter experts at any
of the four **First Friday** events.

We are excited to share
coffee, donuts and
information with you.

9:00 to 10:30 AM
First Fridays
December-March

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Wild Fire Prevention Workshop June 5, 2019

31 people attended the workshop in Stayton.



Whitewater Fire: Courtesy OSU Ext.

The Whitewater fire in 2017 and the Santiam Park fire in March of 2019 may make landowners and residents nervous about the upcoming dry weather of summer. We live in a fire-prone environment, but there are effective practices for minimizing impacts of fire in your neighborhood. Come learn how you can protect your home and space!

2020 Workshops TBA: Follow us on Facebook for announcements

Plan for Your Land Workshop January 17–February 7, 2019

28 participants
4 classes at 2.5 hours each.

The North Santiam Watershed Council, South Santiam Watershed Council, and Marion SWCD partnered to develop the 'Plan For Your Land' course last January in Stayton. Local experts from a variety of natural resource conservation organizations taught about soil, water, and wildlife conservation issues and property management. We then helped landowners to develop a long-term plan for their land and to find funding for their projects. We ended with a potluck dinner and a great networking session where folks could chat with speakers and neighbors! **We have another round of the class planned for early 2020, this time in Salem.**

MARION SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2020 NATIVE PLANT SALE

SAVE THE DATE

ONE DAY ONLY
Saturday March 14
9am-4pm

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

BAUMAN FARMS 12989 Howell Prairie Road, Gervais
www.marionswcd.net | 503.391.9927

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Brandon Bishop Ag Conservation Planner



The 2019 growing season has been interesting to say the least for agriculture. A year that has brought increased technologies and development of a new program proved very busy. Irrigation efficiency is still a major focus on projects throughout the district. We have seen the installation of several linear sprinkler systems as well as micro-irrigation drip systems. The work involved in implementing these projects includes installation of filter stations, pipelines, and nozzles are designed to decrease water use. The crop diversity of agriculture in our district continues to show with conservation projects in cane berries, grass seed, broccoli, mint, pumpkins, green beans, sweet corn, wheat, hazelnuts, hops, nursery stock and hemp. Although some projects were delayed due to parts shortages from bad Midwest weather, they were all operational for the summer irrigation season. The focus on reducing water quantity used through efficiency helps save water by the millions of gallons on over 600 acres of irrigation related projects completed.

We also saw a new technology that hasn't previously been implemented with conservation projects. This new technology is soil moisture sensors for irrigation water management.

Continued next page...



Figure 1 linear irrigation system



Figure 2: Micro Irrigation filter

Continued...

The district in the past has helped landowners track water usage and develop water management plans but often the expense of sensors proved cost prohibitive as an irrigation scheduling tool. The increased accuracy and decreased costs of sensing technologies have led to the wider adoption of this practice. Sensors are now wireless in many instances with the ability to communicate via computer or smartphones. These tools are allowing managers to monitor near real time data on crop consumption of water. We strongly believe in this practice to maximize water use efficiency by watering only when it is needed and where it is needed. Sensors are another step towards increased efficiency complimenting newly installed systems as well as integrating with old.

Through close work with our landowners we listened to their needs and developed a brand-new program. This cover crop program was developed to promote the use of crops during the fall and winter months. Our goal is to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health through cover cropping. These plants will help build soil structure through increased organic matter providing food for soil microbes, reduce compaction and help with water infiltration. The idea of this program was to be simple and quick for implementation of this important proven conservation practice. We continue to have high hopes for next year through improving efficiency with irrigation, saving soil and helping landowners throughout the district. We want our landowners to thrive through programs and create conservation deals that yield.



Figure 3: Soil Moisture Sensor system in hops



Figure 4: Soil Moisture Sensor system in hazelnuts

Meredith Hoffman, Conservation Program and Partnership Lead



A recap of activities in Upper Mill Creek:

In 2018, we worked in Upper Mill Creek. As we finished, we decided to change the focus from riparian restoration to upland soil saving practices including cover crop, conservation cover, filter strips, field borders and grass waterways. We decided to continue our work upstream into the Lower Mill Creek as well.

In the Upper Mill creek area, there are 7403 acres in the watershed for farm use. Upper Mill Creek includes the main stem of Mill Creek and the North and South forks of Mill Creek. Also, several creeks that are predominately used as irrigation ditches; they include Porter Creek, Beaver Creek, McKinney Creek, Salem Ditch, Shelton Ditch, Highberger Ditch and the Perrin Lateral.

To kick off our farm meetings, we started with a winter irrigation meeting in Aumsville, and had 12 landowners, three of which farmed in Mill Creek. We also featured the Mill Creek watershed with a display at our annual meeting which was seen by about 110 people. We focused on Water Quality for our Aumsville Saturday Market educational outreach. We held an Equine Waste Meeting at Scott Creek Farms in Aumsville in March it was attended by 15 participants. It generated four site visits, all in adjoining watersheds.

Media exposure is a challenge and we were happy to have two articles published in Aumsville newspaper and ran a Mill Creek Commercial for a month in the Star Cinema in Stayton and Northern Lights in Salem.



Converting to drip irrigation, replacement of the existing 30 hp pump with this new 7.5 hp pump

A new outreach piece was created for the Aumsville Corn Festival and gave out 1000 fliers. We targeted email and a postcard mailing to Mill Creek landowners for Water Rights Boot Camp. Four articles "Got Manure?", "Mill Creek Invasives Survey Results", "The Ag Water Quality Management Act", "My Well is Going Dry" were published in the summer and fall newsletters. "Mill Creek Equine Waste Management Workshop – A Big Success"! was published as well.

For the Mill Creek Invasive weed survey, we partnered with Marion County Public Works. The invasive team surveyed about 175 parcels along 2 miles of Mill Creek and tributaries and a half mile on Lucas Ditch which is also a tributary. It was followed up with a Mill Creek Invasive plants workshop for local landowners (35 people) was the follow up to the joint survey work done with Marion County.

The results of farm visits and meetings, media exposure and an invasive weed project paid off. We had 64 landowner contacts in the Mill Creek area, and we had 23 site visits, we wrote up 11 conservation plans on 2598 acres and funded 3 projects for 45 acres completed and there are many projects "in the works." We will continue to work in the Mill Creek area as long as landowners interested in soil and water conservation. These stewards chose projects that indicate the promise of sound agriculture and farming practices, as well as improvement in water quantity and quality.

See photo back page

Jenny Ammon
Natural Resource
Educator Report



Salmon Watch:

7 schools
250 students participated
15 volunteers from 7 agencies

Completed Goals:

Create a yearly program calendar, events the public can depend on us providing each year at that same time.

Hold a Salmon Watch Volunteer Training & Appreciation.

Host 3 adult learner programs.

Conduct Teacher trainings and create Teacher newsletter.

Develop and market Program Bins to check-out to Marion Co. community groups and educators.

Continued Goals:

Increased urban outreach

Connect with Neighborhood Associations for soil, water and native plant conservation implementation.

Seminars @ local breweries (Partner with Mid-Valley Small Farms)

Work towards our events being waste free.

Conduct a Habitat Workshop partnering with Audubon.

Conduct a Worm Bin Building Workshop with Master Recyclers.



	Programs	Participants	Contact Hours
January	3	1044	99
February	4	119	320.5
March	3	381	894
April	12	2569	1105.5
May	12	985	2678
June	7	632	2494
Program Bins (check-out program)	6	331	N/A
Totals	47	6061	7591

Soil Your Undies

Soil Health and the Cotton Brief Challenge (May 2019)

Are you curious about the health of your soil? Join a group of Marion County Farm women who are burying cotton underwear to assess the biological activity of their soil and the soil health. Ten pairs of 100% cotton briefs are being buried by farm women across Marion County! Over the next two months, soil microbes will be breaking down the cotton.

Then what?

After two months the briefs will be dug up. The more shredded and ragged the briefs, the healthier the soil. If the briefs look a lot like they did when they were buried, then there is some work to be done in making the soil healthier.

How does this experiment work?

A healthy soil is full of bacteria, fungi, arthropods, protozoa, and earthworms. You see, 100% cotton is a food source for the microbes and other organisms in the soil. This is why after two months in the ground, the worse looking the briefs, the more biological activity you have in your soil. Biologically active soil is healthy soil.

Why does soil health matter?

The increased popularity in home gardening and growing your own food, plus the ever-present interest of farmers in producing healthier crops and forage, has people thinking deeply about soil health. Healthy soils are more productive which

means your crops will be healthier and produce higher yields. Healthy soil also requires less fertilizer, has better water infiltration, and improved water holding capacity. This reduces soil erosion and irrigation requirements, and healthy soil is climate friendly because it can hold more carbon.

In May, each farm woman “planted” a white XXXL 100% cotton pair of briefs, hoping the healthy microbes in the soil would degrade the cotton. 60 days later the results were displayed. The more shredded the undies were, the greater the breakdown. Very little breakdown of the cotton meant that the soil was not hosting enough microbes. Marion Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the challenge on behalf of the local Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS).

The group of ten women “harvested” their Tightly Whities and met on participant Gayle Goschie’s farm and chose to “Dine in the Vines” at the hop field to compare results. The follow-up of the soil experiment yielded eight women with no cotton undies at all, just the elastic band when they dug up undies. Two women had a small amount of cotton, and both planted their undies a little late. Several women were afraid they wouldn’t even find the undies they buried.

Betsy Verhoeven OSU Asst Professor talked with the group about soil health. Most “undies” were planted in a silty clay loam and in spite of little rain, had great microbial activity.

Gayle Goschie, who hosted the meeting for Marion Soil and Water Conservation District said “It was a very successful undertaking, we were not sure what to expect. Lots of jokes, of course, but we are always open to learning about soil health.”



Women taking the challenge (NOT pictured in order) were Tracy Duerst; JOKA Farms of Salem, Brenda Frketich; Kirsch Family Farms of St. Paul, Gayle Goschie; Goschie Farms of Silverton, Elaine Guntz; 4C Farms of Aumsville, Trish Hogervorst of Salem, Rochelle Koch; Whole Circle Farms of Silverton, Lori Pavlicek; 4E Farms of Mt. Angel, Joanne Ross, Scott Creek Farm Miniature Horses of Salem, Alexa Weathers; Willamette Mission Farms of Gervais, and Regan Wyckoff; M & R Stables, Turner.

Conservation Grants FY 2018-2019

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)

The **Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)** is a core conservation program for Marion SWCD. The program allows for the installation of conservation practices on properties throughout the county. The LAP enables landowners to implement conservation projects via a 50% cost share in which Marion SWCD pays half of the project cost, up to \$7,500, and cooperators are required to provide remaining project funds using labor (i.e., sweat equity), materials, and/or cash. Projects must address a specific natural resource issue based on defined natural resource concerns that have been identified by the Marion SWCD Board of Directors and are synchronized with the state-wide priorities defined by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (AgWQMP).

There were 38 applications for funding received in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with funding approved for 38 projects in the total amount of \$256,736. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year there were 38 LAP projects completed, which resulted in \$255,817 in grant assistance provided from District funds; this amount was matched by \$910,035 in landowner contributions. **That's \$1,165,851 in conservation on the ground!**

Special Projects Grant (SPG)

The **Special Projects Grant (SPG)** program provides financial assistance to demonstrate innovative and sustainable conservation projects and speed the development and availability of new and effective conservation practices in the District. Projects require a 50% cost share in which Marion SWCD pays half of the project cost, up to \$7,500, and cooperators are required to provide remaining project funds using labor (i.e., sweat equity), materials, and/or cash. There were no applications received for the SPG program during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Previous projects have included an integrated rainwater catchment system, an urban rain garden, hydroponic fodder feeder, innovative geotextile streambank repair, and a precision GPS guided planter.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grants

Every two years the Mid-Willamette East OWEB Small Grant Team has \$100,000 available for landowner projects that enhance the function of local watersheds. Marion SWCD is a participant in the Mid-Willamette East OWEB small grant program which supports implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by funding projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. During the 2017-2019 biennium, seven projects were awarded funding totaling \$89,717; three of the projects were for Marion SWCD cooperators with awards totaling \$34,790, not including match funding. Projects include erosion control, manure storage facilities, irrigation, and wetland habitat improvement.

Marion SWCD Conservation Grant Programs	Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)*	Special Projects Grants (SPG)	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grants*	Totals
Projects Completed	38	0	1 (Marion SWCD sponsored)	39
Grant Assistance Provided	\$255,817	\$0	\$15,000	\$270,817
Landowner Contributions	\$910,035	\$0	\$57,562	\$967,597
Total Conservation Investment	\$1,165,852	\$0	\$72,562	\$1,238,414

Jenny Meisel Native & Invasive Plant Specialist



Native Plant Program

Our Annual Native Plant Sale and Scholarship Fundraiser is by far the biggest event in our Native Plant Program. We also incorporate native plants into almost everything we do, from restoration projects, to invasive plant control, to creating wildlife and pollinator habitat, and workshops.

The featured workshop for this fiscal year was a Native Woody Plant Identification and Propagation Workshop held in January of 2019 in partnership with the Marion County Master Gardeners. Annie Young-Mathews and Amy Bartow with the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Corvallis gave a wonderful presentation and hands on identification segment to over 80 attendees. At the workshop, participants learned the best ways to propagate and grow native plants and how to identify winter stems of many common shrubs.

2019 marked our 17th Annual Native Plant Sale and Scholarship Fundraiser. This year we saw a large increase in the number of visitors to our native plant sale: We counted 850 total visitors, which is almost 200 more than we had last year!

Here are a few additional numbers from our plant sale:

Plants sold: 5099
Scholarship Dollars Awarded: \$3000
Number of Volunteers: 46
Number of Volunteer Hours: 160



Thank You to everyone for the continued support and for purchasing native plants that provide habitat for all critters great and small, protect our stream banks and slopes, and look beautiful when they bloom.

We also need to say a great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who make our sale a fantastic success! We could not do this without you! We hope to see you again for our Native Plant Sale in 2020.

Profits from the Native Plant Sale fund two scholarships for students from Marion County studying Natural Resources at an Oregon College or University. The Stan Vistica Memorial Scholarship is administered through the Office of Student Access and Completion: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/>.

We help landowners in Marion County with native plant questions throughout the year.

There are several ways that we provide assistance: locating a native plant nursery, finding a particular plant, recommending certain plants for different growing conditions, identifying plants (send us a picture, bring in a plant, or we can come to your property), recommending plants to attract pollinators and wildlife, and more!

Jenny Meisel and Sarah Hamilton are both happy to help with all of your native plant needs.

Jenny.meisel@marionswcd.net or
sarah.hamilton@marionswcd.net

Invasive Plant Program

Once again, our invasive plant program was all about partnerships this past year. By partnering with other agencies and organizations, we were able to accomplish more in the efforts to prevent, detect and control invasive plant species in Marion County and beyond. We initiated, continued or concluded several projects with partners this past fiscal year.

We partnered with the North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) to write a grant to control and survey for invasive water primrose in the North Santiam River. This grant was awarded to the NSWC and runs through April of 2020. For FY 18-19, we conducted landowner outreach by sending out letters to ~165 residents who have property along the North Santiam River in Marion and Linn Counties. These letters alerted landowners to the surveys that were going to be conducted along the river in summer and also provided them with information about the impacts of water primrose, how to identify the plants and how to report sightings.

We continued to work with the City of Salem and a local contractor to target invasive knotweed along City Streams. For this fiscal year, our focus was on Croisan Creek. In fall of 2018, we contacted 50 landowners along Croisan Creek between River Rd. and Kuebler Rd. seeking permission to survey for and treat any knotweed found on the property. Several landowners enthusiastically welcomed assistance with controlling this insidious plant. Treatments by a licensed contractor took place in October of 2018, and sites along Pringle and Clark Creeks were treated for a second time for a total of 28 properties treated.

NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

WATER PRIMROSE



Water primrose is considered one of the worst invasive plants in the world.

It is highly aggressive and typically grows in shallow, slow moving or still water and on the adjacent shoreline.



- Forms large dense mats
- Wildlife cannot swim in infested areas
- Limits recreation and water use
- Clogs waterways, degrades water quality, decreases fish habitat

North Santiam Watershed Council.

Funding for this project was through an Oregon State Weed Board Grant awarded to Marion County. To finish up this project, several activities took place in FY 18-19:

Treatments of yellow flag iris on the Salem Ditch and Mill Creek by a licensed contractor in fall of 2018

A workshop in February 2019 for landowners that provided identification, control and reporting information for the species that were found during the surveys

A half day invasive plant identification training for over 60 Marion County Public Works employees in March of 2019. The workshop included identification of invasive plants and hands on activities to learn plant characteristics to aid in identification skills.

We continue to participate in other regional invasive species programs and groups: Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network, Mid-Willamette Cooperative Management Area and Western Invasives Network.

As always, we continue to provide technical assistance to landowners on plant identification and treatment information, along with responding to Oregon Invasive Species Hotline Reports for Marion County. If you think you've spotted an invasive weed, please don't hesitate to contact us or report it to the Oregon Invasive Hotline:

oregoninvasivehotline.org

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The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling 503-391-9927.



4 stall compost facility
in Lower Mill Creek

