

**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
BOARD MEETING
09/02/2020**

This meeting was held by Zoom Video Conference

Date: Wednesday September 2, 2020
Time: 7:10 to 8:42 PM

Approved Minutes
Recorder: Tom Wilson
Chair: Terry Hsu

ATTENDANCE:

<u>DIRECTORS</u>	<u>ASSOCIATES</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Walker, Scott	Budeau, Dave	Keppinger, Jane	Bachelor, Les (NRCS)
Koch, Rochelle	Fields, Mark	Ortiz, Susan	
Hsu, Terry	Tan, Chong Kee	Ammon, Jenny	
Olson, Darin		Bishop, Brandon	
Krahmer, Doug		Wilson, Tom	
		Hoffman, Meredith	

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS: Roll was taken; no announcements made.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

AGENDA APPROVAL/CHANGES *(if items are added, include under Discussion or Action Items)*

Hsu asked to add under **6/D**: CCTV Potential. **6/E**: Admin Committee. Walker wished to add a Policy Discussion: Projects Outside the District, and Should we Transfer additional Money into the LAP Program? Koch asked to add: Election and Positions Open for Directors. Les Bachelor, NRCS asked the Board if they could please entertain review of two conservation plans under CREP, received late but an FSA Deadline is fast approaching they hope to meet. Plans for (1) Mike Matthews and (2) Sublime Organics each require board signatures. Hsu assigned positions for discussion noting under Admin (**E**) they will also discuss Protocol within Committees. **F**: Projects Out of District and how we are addressing that. **G**: Open Board Election. And Keppinger advised Hsu there is a Cover Crop Application to review. Hsu responded, **H** for CREP/FSA and **I**: Cover Crop. (45:51)

AGENCY and/or MSWCD COMMITTEE REPORT

NRCS Report – L. Bachelor

It has been a long year for contracting, with 54 applications received this year, Bachelor advised. He indicated he will provide a full contract report next month. The two CRP plans mentioned earlier, will require your Board's approval. Sonja Gagen is our new Soil Conservationist on Staff and Katie Chambers is our new Resource Soil Scientist in the Office, she is taking Jericho's old position, Bachelor advised. Mike Matthews is re-upping his existing conservation plan for another term, and Sublime Organics will be putting in some new CRP as well (Conservation Reserve Program). Bachelor advised how multiple signatures are required from Partners at the SWCD. NRCS handles the technical side of the plan, the landowner signs, then the plan goes to the SWCD and then to FSA's County Committee, and then Janelle (FSA Director) will sign-off he said.

ACTION: Koch motioned for the Board to approve the two CRP applications submitted by Les Bachelor, NRCS. 2nd by Hsu.
MOTION PASSED 5-0

ADHOC Building Committee - Walker

The Board held a discussion during the Executive meeting on what has been happening regarding the building, and will be making a proposal to the seller. This will be addressed later.

Present Financial Report – Keppinger presented the report to the board.

ACTION: Hsu moved to present the financial report as presented; Olson 2nd
MOTION PASSED 5-0

Discuss/Approve Video Services for 2020 Salmon Watch Program – J. Ammon, MSWCD Staff told the board about the need for funds to create videos for Salmon Watch.

ACTION: Hsu moved that the Board approve funding video support of \$5,000.00 total, includes previously approved \$2,000 from last meeting, to the World Salmon Council. 2nd by Koch
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

District Manager Evaluation Update – Chair Hsu reported the evaluation questionnaire has been sent to staff and partners and will be sent to board later this month using survey monkey.

CCTV contract to produce videos of district programs

ACTION: Krahmer moved to approve \$5,760 to support the production of videos. 2nd by Olson. Walker asked to delay the vote until later this month.
MOTION FAILED 3-2 (Walker/Olson Nay). To be discussed at a later September meeting.

Admin committee: Hsu would like to start the Admin Committee again with himself, Olson and Tan. The committee will look at logistics for the move, handbook, delegation of authority and record keeping.

Committee and Voting Discussion - Keppinger explained the committees are to take on work before board meetings, and bring the findings to the board. There are typically 4 votes on the committee. Hsu stated just count votes; report all votes to the board.

Letter of Support for Project in Marion County - Walker commented that the board has never supported projects outside of the district. Keppinger explained that LWC and NSW put in for grants together, NSW was asking for potential funding if grants are acceded by OWEB, and it will support work in Marion County only, excluding the “out area” of the county. Discussion regarding stakeholder grants. Walker requested more information from Keppinger on the specific work to be done.

Election Discussion - Koch suggested contacting the Farm Bureau or other Ag organizations for more candidates. Keppinger will put information out there. Budeau will run for Zone 4. Walker reminded the board that the positions can be filled by appointment after the election.

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ACTION: Walker moved, Olson 2nd
MOTION PASSED 5-0

Updates/discussions/decisions about potential new office space

ACTION: Walker moved to instruct realtor to send materials from executive session to the sellers. Koch 2nd.
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

Discussion regarding the requirements and all the fundamental information and who will lead the search for the architect. Tan asked if he was asking for bids, if there is time or capacity. What is the financial structure, a percentage, hourly or flat fee? Keppinger said there must be a public procurement for the contract. She said the professional services don't have the same rules as other services. The first step is deciding what needs to be done. Koch recommends Walker continue to secure an architect, Hsu agrees. Koch and Tan will be support, and Walker will bring them up to speed.

Landowner assistance program - award applicants

ACTION: Hsu moved, 2nd Walker

DISCUSSION:

- Walker asked how many large grants there will be in a year, and the program committee recommended capping it at 2 or 3. Keppinger said it is up to the board.
- Olson commented on the moisture probe and subscription needed. Bishop said that the landowner will be paying the subscription. He wanted it specifically stated the landowner will pay the subscription fee.
- Walker mentioned his concern of funding a project on a private country club (Illahee Hills). He stated he it makes him feel uncomfortable. Keppinger reminded the board against singling out applicants because of who they are.
- Discussion regarding funding for future projects.
- Olson asked why there are not soil sensors on every project. Hoffman stated that they are implanted in stages.
- Olson asked if the probes follow federal guidelines, and Bishop will investigate. Olson stated Dr. Duke from Florida has done much research.

Olson approves if by the next board meeting the board has the language of the contract. MOTION PASSED: 5 -0

USGS funding

Keppinger said it is an on-going contract, with an increase of 4%. There is no money coming from Dept. of Ag. Keppinger will research who at the Dept. of Ag is in charge of the program.

ACTION: Walker moved to pay USGS, 2nd Hsu.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Noted: Doug Kraemer had left the meeting after the last vote.

Discuss topics for OACD consideration for legislation

Keppinger explained they are looking for issues to address for the district. Koch suggested Oak Preservation and Restoration and Walker said the Heritage Commission. Hoffman will forward information on Oak Restoration to Koch.

Cover Crop / LAP Project

Presented last week, 123 acres of organic row crops. Time sensitive as weather permitting for planting. \$17,428 total cost and asking for \$7,500. Bishop reported it is great project with a new customer, and they have filled out their paperwork.

MOTION: Walker moved to approve the Nottingham Shire farms LLC LAP-Conservation Cover Project. Olson 2nd.

ACTION: Passed 4-0.

Limit for L.A.P. \$22,500 large grants

- Koch and Olson said let round 2 play out without any more \$22,500 grants.
- Walker suggested capping it at 2, therefore closing the window for this year.

- Budeau remembered there have been about 2 large projects per year thru the years.
- Hoffman reminded the board timing is everything in agriculture.
- Olson suggested tabling until next meeting and Hsu agreed.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Hsu at 8:42 PM

Minutes submitted by Tom Wilson, Administrative Assistant

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Next Regular Board Meeting: **October 7, 2020 beginning at 7:00PM**

Location: **Via Zoom**

Note: The District expects to continue using online meetings until Marion County modifies their requirement for social distancing, as a result of- COVID-19. The number of individuals within the Marion SWCD meeting room will be limited to six, and each attendee will maintain - a distance of: six feet between themselves. Advance notice for attendance is required. Please contact: office@marionswcd.net. Thank you.

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