

ITEM # 5



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2022

6:35 PM to 8:38 PM

Facilitator: Chair Olson

Recorded by: Brenda Sanchez

Attendance

Meeting offered in-person at our location in Stayton, OR, by video conference, and by telephone.

Directors	Associates	Staff	Guests
Budeau, Dave	Fields, Mark	Sanchez, Brenda	Bachelor, Les
Hsu, Terry	Hardy, LeLand		Donahue, Drew
Koch, Rochelle			
Olson, Darin			
Walker, Scott			

A. Olson Call to Order: 6:35 PM

B. Agenda Additions or Changes

One addition of a LAP Project Change to agenda item 13.

C. Announcements

1. Sanchez announced that there will be a special Board meeting June 13, 2022, to respond to the legal review.
2. Olson announced that Sanchez is up for three-month review. He recommends the Officers complete the three-month review and report back to the Board; Sanchez agrees this will be fine. Olson suggests that Sanchez have her review at the one-year mark of her employment.
3. Olson announced he would like to see the committees meet less often and potentially dissolve the building committee. Committee chairs can decide if they need to have a meeting every month.
4. Board trainings to review Director Powers and Responsibilities (August 7, 2022, at Board meeting) and Ethics for Public Officials (October 5, 2022, at Board meeting). Training by Eric Nussbaum ODA.

ITEM # 5

1. Public Comment

No Public attended the meeting.

2. District Snapshot

May Snapshot on file.

3. Treasurers Report Ending April 30, 2022

Budeau began reporting on the Treasurer's Report ending April 30, 2022, that the budget looks good. One item to note is that the Local Government Investment Pool earned interest on the front page (reconciliation) is not the same as reported in the Resources Page. Sanchez replied that she does not know why the difference and will clarify for the next meeting. Walker notes that we will have a surplus for the year. Budeau replies that he is correct, staff vacancies contributed. Hsu asks why some payments in US bank statement (dollar amounts) do not show up; employee paychecks and other items, can someone explain? Hsu goes on, In column C there is an X in it and in other situations. Budeau explained with direct deposit those amounts are not listed. There is another sheet (payroll sheet) that shows the salary amounts but is not included in this packet. Walker would like to see what staff is getting paid. Sanchez said it could be shared. Some utilities have moved to direct payment and may be why these do not show up. Sanchez replied to Hsu, that she will work to sort these details out and get those columns populated with correct memos. Walker added that the report has been like this for almost two years. Budeau further explained that one of those was a voided check. Olson suggests that Directors, when they have questions about the monthly Treasurer's Report contact Sanchez before the Board meeting

Action: Koch motioned for the Board to **approve the Financial/Treasurers Report ending April 30, 2022.** 2nd by Walker. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-5 (Walker, Olson, Koch, Hsu, and Budeau), Opposed-0).

4. **USDA Services**

Bachelor began the report noting that NRCS will be up to full staff in June. Everyone is back in the office. NRCS is seeking additional funding requests on the 14th (June) for more Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) projects that did not get funded in the previous cycle. There are six more applications in the CIS. Bachelor wanted to make sure we know they (NRCS) work on all sizes of farms, there are income cutoffs, but we will work with farms of any size.

Inquiry: Walker asks, "NRCS puts a request into the state of Oregon? I thought this was federal money." Bachelor explains the money is allocated to the state

ITEM # 5

office of the NRCS from federal funds. His request is to the state office of the NRCS to get more funding for CIS. The funding is federal dollars.

5. Review of [May 4, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes](#)

Budeau noted that he submitted edits to Sanchez, and they were incorporated. Hsu noted one additional typo of a date requiring correction.

Inquiry: Bachelor asks if he could get a copy of the minutes. Sanchez said she will make sure he gets on the minutes list.

Action: Hsu motioned for the Board to **approve the May 4, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**. 2nd by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-5 votes - Walker, Olson, Koch, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

6. [iMap](#)

Sanchez explains the District has been providing funding to iMAP. They are asking for another year of funding. Discussion ensued regarding if iMAP is a useful project. Olson remembered the reason we funded iMAP was to understand where weeds are at and then individuals can follow up with control. Walker is concerned if iMAP is providing a service to the county. Sanchez responded by pointing out iMAP accomplishments. Budeau shared his experience with reporting weeds in road rights-of-way and the control response, or absence thereof. Olson would like the iMAP discussion to be tabled until the next meeting. Pass this by the Program Committee and discuss the need; bring recommendation to the Board.

7. [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\): Gauges](#)

Sanchez described the need for contract renewal for USGS to maintain two stream gauges one at Abiqua Creek at Silverton and another at Butte Creek at Monitor. The contract is for 2023 and is due by October 1, 2022. Discussion regarding the need and use of the gauges followed. Walker asks if the locations are useful. Hsu responded that these are gauges established in two types of watersheds. Walker continued to ask if the gauges are being used? Sanchez replied it is to establish a discharge record, not necessarily about use. Olson went into the history of the Flow Program and how these two gauges remained, after the Flow Program was basically disbanded. Hsu added he likes the idea of having others “chip in” to keep these gauges active. Olson moved the USGS contract item to the July 6, 2022, Board meeting. In the interim Sanchez will find out more information regarding the use of the gauges and if there are other entities that could cost share on the gauges.

ITEM # 5

8. Administrative Committee

Hsu (chair of the admin committee) shared that the admin committee received a report on a previously filed grievance. It is still under legal review. Hsu discussed how Sanchez would like to modify and update the Board Meeting policy and will work on it and bring a draft to the next admin committee meeting. The scheduled Board meeting trainings will help us with this. Hsu went on to highlight that there will be some Board trainings coming up and one is regarding the Oregon constitution, which we take an oath to uphold. The committee also discussed the District Manager three-month review and how that will take place. Discussed during the announcements at the start of the meeting.

Inquiry: Koch asks since there are so many policies can't we bundle them. Olson replied that revised policies will go through committee and then to the Board. Sanchez says we will focus on this one policy for now.

9. Program Committee

a) **Conservation Enhancement Reserve Program (CREP)**

Drew Donahue provided a brief overview of the CREP Program and accomplishments in Marion County. Presentation was well received and is on file.

b) **SPG Grant: Flow Tech**

Pineda resubmitted this SPG regarding Flow Tech, a product that pulses electricity into irrigation water so, purportedly, plants can more easily take up water, which decreases the amount of water lost to leaching. It was not approved at the last meeting, however since then an LAP with a Flow Tech component was funded. Discussion centered around whether this technology is legitimate. Olson added that is why there is a SPG grant to study innovation. Hardy added that he is skeptical of the project. Discussion continued regarding the validity of the technology and how the project is setup to determine if it is effective. Sanchez stated that the applicant is unable to set up a control. No motion was made.

c) **Cover Crop Program (CCP)**

Staff has been discussing the CCP. Walker asks if the CCP should continue. Olson asks the District Manager if it is possible to implement the CCP during the "Pause". Sanchez replied that staff would like to fly the program. They are currently working on simplifying the application and will be passing that through Program Committee. Sanchez says she will get with staff to ensure that they have the capacity to complete. Koch then asks about the Pause and how can this move forward if the Board has not decided to keep the CCP. Olson ensured that nothing would move forward without Board discussion and approval. Discussion continued as to why the CCP is needed. Budeau added that it was needful for the

ITEM # 5

Strategic Implementation Area. Koch added that the Board has issues with the CCP, and it needs to be discussed further.

d) Proposed Watershed Council Support Grant (WSCG)

Sanchez reviewed that the WSCG framework has been revised and will go through the June Program Committee to review. Sanchez ensured Walker that it will be on the July meeting agenda for action.

10. Building Committee

Walker discussed the ADA ramp. Stating that the growing price tag has led him to suggest that we focus on installing the ADA access to the back door; install a doorbell for entry, add in a parking spot. Walker went on to add that he would also like an area in back for staff to retreat to such as adding a patio. Hsu responded that he does not see the need for a patio and that the ADA would work well in the back. Olson suggested that the District Manager can decide on a table out back.

11. Education Committee

Ankeny Hill Nature Center. The Salem Audubon Society, with the support of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center team, proposes an award from the MSWCD in the amount of \$4,500 to fund a Native Pollinators Interpretive/Education Node at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. These funds would be supplemented with volunteer and staff in-kind contributions of site preparation, material development and visitor engagements. The Program committee recommends the project to be funded at \$4,500 as a stand-alone project. Budeau adds that he has visited the refuge and did not see any signage providing recognition of the District's previous funding. Discussion followed regarding a sign.

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **approve \$4,500 to the Audubon Society for the development of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center Pollinator Program with the condition that there is a sign recognizing the district for its contribution.** 2nd by Budeau. Directors continued the discussion and stated that the district will pay for the sign and work with Ankeny Hill Nature Center to design and install. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-5 votes - Walker, Olson, Koch, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

12. Payments and Contracts

a) Completed Grants

Staff created a slideshow of completed projects. Presentation on file.

ITEM # 5

Inquiry: Walker asked if the OWEB small grants is up and running? Or still stalled with Linn SWCD. Sanchez said the team is still working on it and some progress has been made, but we are not quite there yet with OWEB small grant team.

13. Grants and Extensions

a) [LAP Extensions](#)

Discussion regarding the extension requests. Mostly due to supply issues and weather-related delays.

b) [LAP Project Change](#)

Action: Budeau motioned for the Board to **approve all LAP Requests for Extension including the one Sanchez added and the Project Change for name change for tax purposes.** 2nd by Hsu. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (unanimously: Aye-5 votes - Walker, Olson, Koch, Hsu, and Budeau, Opposed-0 votes).

Discussion: Olson brought up that Straub Environmental Center (SEC) had not drawn on their approved funding for the last two years (\$10,000/year) because of COVID impacting educational services at SEC. Olson is looking for input as to whether the Board would be willing to still provide those dollars from the last two years to SEC.

Adjourn: Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise the District Manager at 503-391-9927 as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.