



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

9:00 am via [Zoom](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89754679447?pwd=WVJtcnY1eWphRDZwYWMvRGdUQWRVQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5467 9447 | Passcode: 258889 | Dial in at: +1 253 215 8782

AGENDA

Call to Order – Scott Walker, Chair 9:03 am

In attendance: Scott Walker, Brenda Sanchez, Mark Fields, Becky Pineda, Heath Keirstead

Potential Environmental Education Partner Funding Stream

Let's consider developing a process for offering capacity funding for environmental/natural resource-focused education groups/ organizations in Marion County. This would be similar to providing capacity funding for watershed councils working within the geographic boundaries of Marion SWCD, we could offer capacity funding for organizations that provide natural resources education within the geographic boundaries of Marion SWCD. This would extend our reach and our ability to achieve our mission. Examples of Organizations: [Straub Outdoors](#), [Salem Environmental Education](#), [Native Plant Society](#), 4-H and FFA clubs, [Oregon Ag Fest](#), etc.

Do we, the Ed Committee, recommend developing a process to provide annual capacity funding for environmental education organizations in Marion County? What is the best way to proceed to ensure what we offer is fair and accessible to all environmental education organizations serving Marion County?

Discussion: Can't find a special line item for Straub, it is true though we gave them \$10,000 a year, they would come and report their activities to the board so they would feel comfortable. Jenny Ammon spoke to Catherine and told her, that with the pandemic, Darin talked to Catherine...Darin's point: we haven't been spending that much money, they didn't come and ask for money this year, maybe we could give Straub more this one time, make sure we are fair with other groups, help Straub out extra this year, and work on ideas for how we could help other groups also moving forward. Board is on board with giving additional money this year. We have been working with Straub for over 15 years.

This discussion encompasses two things- 1) funds for Straub and 2) setting up a process for funding environmental education organizations. We need to have clear criteria on what organizations would qualify. Some organizations do just a little bit, others do primarily environmental stuff. If environmental concerns are tangential to their main mission, then Scott would be reticent.

- 1) FUNDS FOR STRAUB - Do we want to offer Straub additional funding this year or just the regular \$10,000? Scott supports giving funds to Straub, so does Darin, Mark suggests giving funding for 2 years, they give a report, then we give them funding for another 2 years – Becky would like to give the funding to Straub now, and set up a framework, including a paid executive director and

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some other framework – work up parameters so that we make it clear who we are targeting with this support. Straub would receive \$20,000 (a 1-year higher amount), then come back and go through the new process. Recommend a range of \$10,000-\$20,000 to the board. Mark would be in favor of giving \$20,000 right now to make up for not receiving funds last year. But in future, they would be applying for \$10,000 per year. Recommend to board: Offer Straub Outdoors \$20,000 this year for this year and last year. (Darin moves, Mark seconds) In favor: HK, MF, DO; against: SW – feels more comfortable with \$10,000.

- 2) SETTING UP A PROCESS TO FUND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS Brenda – we don't have specific line items for this. We need to set up administrative and accountability processes for these funds. Could we follow the same process being set up for watershed councils, and we set up our own criteria for environmental education? Watershed councils also do environmental education. Mark and Darin think it sounds reasonable to report this conversation to the board. Propose concept to board, get yea or nay, then instruct the committee to develop a framework. For the framework, can we offer 3-4 years of support at a time? Discuss with the board that the education committee thinks it is a good idea to develop a framework for providing funding support for organizations involved in environmental education -

Streamlined Salmon Watch Funding Assistance

Each year, Marion SWCD coordinates Salmon Watch field trips for students in Marion County. We offer funding to cover buses and subs for these trips. Currently, we require teachers to use the same process for Salmon Watch subs and buses that we use for all other CLEAR grants. Streamlining the process will be more efficient for teachers and ourselves. Teachers I have spoken to are in favor of a simplified process. The Program Committee is going through a similar process for certain kinds of LAP grants.

Please see attached:

- a. Salmon Watch Process Draft
- b. Salmon Watch Grant Instructions Draft
- c. Salmon Watch Funding Question List Draft
- d. Salmon Watch Evaluation Questions Draft
- e. Salmon Watch Approval and Denial Form Drafts
- f. Salmon Watch Follow Up Form Draft

Items c. through f. are Foundant System forms that will be fillable online just like CLEAR grants. What are the recommendations of the committee? Darin doesn't see why we shouldn't streamline it? How do we trigger it? Does it count towards the max per year? Would need board approval to go over a certain amount of funding for

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Salmon Watch (a set amount based on previous years) – we want to ask the board for a set amount for Salmon Watch to not get individual project approval. Set aside a specific amount for SW for subs and buses, for the Salmon Watch field trips we coordinate. Go to the board with one approval request for all the reimbursements.

CLEAR Grant Salmon Watch – committee approve a certain amount for Salmon Watch per year, let staff take care of it, Heath makes motion, Mark seconds the recommendation to the board. 3:0

Adjournment – Scott Walker, Chair 10:10 am

Help Spread the Word...

Upcoming Education Events

1. Salem Saturday Market - 6/18, 7/16
2. Other Community Events – Stayton HS Summer Kick off (6/14), Homer Davenport Days (Aug 5-7), Englewood Forest Festival (8/13), Community Salmon Watch Day (9/11),
3. Youth Education – Salmon Watch Field Trips – Sept. 14-Oct. 13 (not Oct 4-7); Salem Outdoor School Oct 4-7
4. First Fridays – [Sept 1 – Stephanie Hazen on Monarch Butterflies](#) – First Friday of each month from 12-12:45 pm (none in July, August speaker not identified yet))
5. KМУZ Conservation Spotlight podcast – [June 15 at 8 am and 6 pm – Owen Dell on Water Management in the Yard and Garden](#) – (MSWCD hosts in March, June, September, and December)

Committee Members

Board: Scott Walker, Mark Fields, Darin Olson

Staff: Heath Keirstead, Janice Calkins, Becky Pineda

All committee meetings are open to the public, contact the office for more information at 503-391-9927 Ext 335.

If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise the District Manager at 503-871-7311 or email office@marionswcd.net as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

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