

MARION SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

All Committee Meetings are Open to the Public
Due to COVID-19, these meetings will be held by video conference. See access below.

Date: May 18, 2022
Time: 9:00am
Location: Online

AGENDA

	Item	Purpose	Lead
	Call to order		Kyle Ross
1	Updates	Discussion	All Members
2	Watershed Council Support Grant - Draft	Discussion, Recommendation	Brenda
3	Special Project Grant - Pearmine	Discussion, Recommendation	Becky
4	Cover Crop Grant	Discussion	Delani
5	Flat Rate vs. Cost-Share	Discussion	Susan
	Adjourn Meeting		Kyle Ross

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Program Committee Attendance:

Leland Hardy, Kyle Ross

Staff: Sarah Hamilton, Becky Pineda, Delani Herb, Susan Ortiz, Brenda Sanchez

Guest: Scott Walker

The May 18, 2022 Program Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Kyle Ross at 9:08am. The meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

Updates

Becky updated that the grant completion slideshow template was complete, and staff are adding information. The first grant completion slideshow will be presented at the June board meeting.

Watershed Council Support Grant

Board member Scott Walker joined the committee meeting to discuss specifics of this grant. District Manager Sanchez made edits to the draft grant document during the discussion. This grant will be on the agenda for the June committee meeting for further discussion before moving forward to the board for approval.

Special Projects Grant - Pearmine

This grant was brought back for discussion after the requests from the April committee meeting were met, and an LAP for the same technology was approved. Becky presented an irrigation water management plan that could be used if the grant is awarded, and Bill Terry from WaterPoint Irrigation Technologies joined the LAP review committee in April to share information about the Flow-Tech Grow system, of which the grant is for. There was lengthy discussion before a motion was made.

Kyle Ross moved to approve the Pearmine SPG based on having a control treatment where we can compare if the radio frequency is altering the properties that we are testing. Leland Hardy seconded. The motion passed unanimously and will move forward to the June board meeting as long as a test has been developed. Becky will contact the Pearmine's to discuss the test. Leland will be assisting with this development.

Cover Crop Grant

Delani opened discussion on a cover crop grant. This would be a simplified application compared to our current LAP application and would be specifically for Fall 2022 while other grant programming is in a pause. Kyle and Lee are both in favor of moving forward on this. Delani will be sharing the simplified application at the June Program Committee meeting.

Flat Rate vs. Cost Share

Susan led the discussion on whether the district should use flat rate or cost share funding for grants. The following is a list of benefits and concerns from the discussion.

- Benefits:
 - We would use the NRCS cost scenarios which have already been approved by the board.
 - Completion process is simplified – less administrative time, more efficient.
 - May be easier for clients than completing a budget.
 - Documentation of expenses is still required at completion.
- Concerns:
 - Cost increases – will a fixed rate cover increases in costs.
 - Rates may be behind by a year from EQIP/NRCS.
 - Some practices won't fit the mold for flat rate.

Kyle recommended that Susan proceed into looking into flat rates for various conservation projects. Leland agreed. Susan will continue to work on this and bring it back to the June Program Committee meeting.

Kyle adjourned the meeting at 10:42am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Pineda
Marion SWCD Staff