



**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

HB2560 requires that all Oregon public meetings held by a governing body of a public body, excluding executive sessions, must provide to members of the public an opportunity to access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means. This meeting will be held by video conference and by telephone.

-  **Link to Video Conference:** [\(Zoom\) Meeting Link](#)
-  **Meeting Call in Number:** 1 (253) 215 - 8782
-  **Meeting ID:** 897 5467 9447 | **Passcode:** 258889
- Staff Contact:** Heath Keirstead, heath.keirstead@marionswcd.net

Agenda

Chair: Call Meeting to Order, Agenda Changes & Approval

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Purpose	Time
1	Elect Committee Chair, Committee Structure	H. Keirstead	Procedure	10 min
2	Public Comment	Chair	Feedback	5 min
3	Review Minutes from Dec 12, 2022	H. Keirstead	Procedure	5 min
4	Updates	Staff	Discussion	5 min
5	CLEAR Grant Application Review: 4-H Outdoor Explorers	Chair	Discussion, Recommendations	5 min
6	Committee meeting schedule and CLEAR grant deadlines	H. Keirstead	Discussion, Approval	15 min
7	S. Vistica Scholarship Update/Process	H. Keirstead	Discussion	5 min
8	Small Farm School – MSWCD role?	H. Keirstead	Discussion, Recommendations	10 min
Meeting Adjournment		Chair		

Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
5	Ryan Thompson of OSU 4-H submitted a grant request for \$2,000 in support of their Outdoor Explorers field trips for high school aged students in Marion County. Each event will host 10 youth, with 2 events per month for 5 months: total of 100 youth. The total project budget is \$12,890 and he requested \$2000 for transportation and food.	
	More info about the Outdoor Explorers Project submitted by Ryan Thompson:	

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“We do not have the locations planned out yet for these events. Our Teen Leaders typically plan the locations and I will plan activities.

Some typical locations we visit include: Silver Falls State Park, Willamette Mission State Park, Abiqua Falls, Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area, Detroit Lake, Ankeny and Basket Slough Wildlife Refuges, Mt Jefferson Wilderness, Breitenbush River, Fishermens Bend, Oregon Gardens, Marion Forks Fish Hatchery, and more. Many of these locations are currently closed from fires, so we have been more limited in options for local outdoor events.

Activities in the past have included: Bird ID, Plant ID, Mushroom ID, wildlife tracking, Career Exploration with Rangers and site managers, outdoor cooking, navigation/orienteering, hiking safety, invasive species mapping/removal, trail building/maintenance, team building and leadership development, trash pick-ups, and more.

As mentioned, these events aren’t fully planned, and thus are flexible, so if there are any suggestions/requests for activities and locations, we are more than happy to plan for them.”

- 6 To generate more applications for the CLEAR grants and to streamline and reduce the workload and number of meetings associated with the CLEAR grant administrative process, a schedule has been developed for FY 2023-2024. The schedule includes 4 grant deadlines – all during the school year - and 6 Education and Outreach meetings per year (with any additional meetings scheduled as needed). [It has been shown that about 50% more](#) applicants submit applications for grants with deadlines. We do not typically use all of the funding available for CLEAR grants; the deadline approach may generate an increase in applications and help us distribute all available funds.

- 7 Heads up! The Scholarship for 2023-24 is open for applications now. The early bird deadline is Feb 15 and the final deadline is March 1. Does E/O committee review these? (It seems like it makes sense for us to do that.) We would need to review in May and submit our final decision to OSAC by the end of May. Is that possible or does our decision have to go through the board?

- 8 Small Farm School is hosted each year by OSU Extension, Clackamas SWCD, and Clackamas Community College. They are seeking more partners for the event both with planning, event management, and with funding; in the past Marion SWCD involvement has been sponsoring a scholarship for attendance by residence of Marion County. It appears that about 10% of past event participants are from Marion County. Can we sponsor Marion Co residents who attend this year? Can MSWCD staff help in other ways (like set up, clean up, signs, etc)?

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members	Attendance		Guests
	Present/ Absent	Staff	
Darin Olson	Present		Peggy Hart, At Large Director
Scott Walker	Present (left early)		
Mark Fields	Present		
Heath Keirstead	Present		
Kassi Roosth	Present		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
	<p>Call to Order: Scott W. started meeting at 11:13 am.</p>	
1	<p>Darin O. nominates Heath K. Mark F. rescinded his earlier nomination of Scott W. Scott W. has a concern that this is a committee of the board, as such he thinks it should be chaired by a Director. The committee reports to the board. Peggy H. comments that it is an academic issue. Scott opposed.</p>	<p>Action: 4 in favor of Heath serving as chair for this committee.</p>
2	<p>Public comment</p>	<p>None</p>
3	<p>December minutes discussion and acceptance. No objections. (Scott W. had already left the meeting, Kassi R. abstained: she did not attend the December meeting.)</p>	<p>3 in favor; 1 abstained of accepting minutes as submitted.</p>
4	<p>Staff Updates: Kassi R. excited to continue working on BHIP – that program touches on stormwater, pesticide reduction, wildlife habitat, most immediately – putting together an IPM training, Fire Safety Talk. Question from Peggy H. – asked if Kassi R. will focus on soil health in the backyard? Kassi R. might make it its own bucket in the program because it could be a great focus on its own.</p> <p>Darin O.: On chemical use – MSWCD is not for or against chemical use - we support either option; it’s up to the landowner. The District doesn’t make chemical recommendations - we would be liable. If we want to teach about application rates and protection in a workshop, Darin recommends going with an independent chemical rep (Wilbur Ellis, etc).</p> <p>Beaver stuff is coming too. Heath K. working on plant sale right now. There will be 3 talks at the plant sale event – one First Friday talk (rain gardens) and two Conservation Club talks (birds & bees).</p>	
5	<p>Darin O. motioned that we recommend the 4-H grant and Heath K. seconded. The motion is to recommend to the board to fully fund it.</p>	<p>Action: We recommend to the Board that they fund the 4-H grant for \$2,000. All in favor.</p>
6-7	<p>Meeting schedule and grant deadlines: We’ll try it for 2023-2024 and if we don’t like it change it for next. Try for 10:30 am, most on second Tuesdays. Scott will likely make a suggestion to be have more meetings. We all agree that when the need for an additional meeting arises, we would schedule it. The scholarship review process has been done by OSAC in the past.</p>	<p>We’ll try the meeting schedule for 2023-2024 and if we don’t like it change it for next.</p> <p>Heath K. will get more info on the process from OSAC and report back next meeting.</p>
8	<p>Small Farm School sponsorships: general agreement that this is a good idea but we don’t know how much it costs, etc.</p>	<p>Heath will get more info and report back at next meeting.</p>
	<p>Heath K adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm</p>	

