






**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 9:00 am to 10:30 am**

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:**
-  **Meeting ID: | Passcode:**
- Staff Contact:** Becky Pineda, becky.pineda@marionswcd.net


Agenda

Chair: Call Meeting to Order, Agenda Changes & Approval

Item #	Topic	Presenter	Time
1	Updates	Staff	5 min.
2	Oak CIS Draft Submittal	C. Blank	5 min.
3	CAG Review Committee Procedures	S. Ortiz	15 min.
4	Partner Grants	S. Ortiz	20 min.
5	SPG Grant Application Review	B. Pineda	10 min.
6	CREP Tech Position	B. Sanchez	10 min.
7	ODA SOW Grant	B. Pineda	10 min.
	Meeting Adjournment	Chair	

Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
1	Updates on district programs and offerings.	
2	Introduction of the Oak CIS and next steps.	Discussion
3	Review the procedures for our Conservation Assistance Grants that the review/evaluation committee completes.	Provide feedback and make recommendations for updating procedures.

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4	Continue discussion on our Partner Grant framework that includes capacity and project funding for our partners.	Discussion and recommendation
5	Review a Special Project Grant application.	Make recommendations and move approvals onto the board.
6	Our CREP Technician will be leaving at the end of 2023. What does the district want to do about this vacancy?	Discussion and recommendation
7	Our Scope of Work grant from ODA needs submitted for the 2023-2025 biennium. The SOW also includes our Focus Area Action Plan.	Discussion and recommendation

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members	Present/Absent	Staff	Guests
Dave Budeau	Present	Chelsea Blank	Peggy Hart
Rochelle Koch	Present	Brenda Sanchez	
Leland Hardy	Absent	Sarah Hamilton	
Becky Pineda	Present		
Susan Ortiz	Present		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
	Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM	
1	Updates - CAG applications received and reviewed by committee; Ag Succession planning; SIA Open House	
2	Introduction of the Oak CIS and next steps. Chelsea shared a slideshow on a proposal for Oak Habitat – Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) or RCCP (Resource Conservation Partnership) – adjoining counties have programs to support oak restoration to connect oak habitat restoration efforts through the Willamette Valley. She relayed information on how the partnership could work, timeline for a CIS proposal submission, areas for the work to focus on, and pilot sites in Marion and Clackamas counties. Will be hosting education and outreach events to gather interest. Would cover protection of oak habitat, oak release, and establishment of a new oak savannah or oak prairie.	Action: none at this time

CAG Review Committee Procedures

Susan went over review process for the CAG committee, she noted the committee was not included with the reorganization of the other District Committees, and that Brenda would be working on a revision to add the CAG Review Committee., and any recommendation would go into effect after the next Board elections.

3 With a more formal structure to the committee, it will be necessary to identify the committee membership; currently the committee includes 1 Board Member, 1 Associate Board Member, 1 NRCS representative (although there were 2 for the most recent review); in the past the North Santiam Watershed Council coordinator has participated as well.

Action: none at this time.

Recommendation:

- 1-Board Member (2-year appointment)
- 1-Associate Board Member (2-year appointment)
- 1-NRCS Representative
- 2-Public Members: preferably subject matter professionals, includes watershed council representatives.

The NR Committee will revisit this at their next meeting.

Partner Grants

Susan presented a slideshow and detailed the background on the reasoning for having a partner grant framework; and requested committee input regarding the framework of the program.

4 Discussion regarding deadlines, evaluation, acceptable application formats, and raising awareness of the funding opportunity for partners. It was noted that requests for this type of funding is regularly received by the District, and the Board determines sufficiency; funding has been spread throughout the budget in the past and will be consolidated to one line beginning with the 2023-2024 budget, with the budgeted amount subject to board approval each year.

Recommend approval of the partner grants program framework; with an initial deadline early in the fiscal year and a second deadline roughly halfway through Fiscal year if funding remains; to consider leveraged funds and partner participation when reviewing the applications; and that staff complete an initial review of applications, followed by review by one of the District Committees, prior to review / approval by the Board. Motioned by Dave, second by Becky. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Consensus of committee:

To be presented at the June Board Meeting.

Deadlines: 2 cycles – 1st open amount, 2nd if funding remains.

In-Kind: Leveraged funds and partnership participation will be considered when reviewing applications for funding.

Review Process: staff will review and make recommendations, then the Admin, E&O or NR Committee for respective grant requests will make recommendations to the Board.

- Administrative Committee
 - Capacity
- Education & Outreach Committee
 - Education
 - Outreach
- Natural Resources Committee
 - Technical Assistance
 - Project Implementation

Susan left the meeting at 10:30 AM

SPG Grant Application Review

Application received from J3 Farms for a water conservation system to reduce water use during peppermint harvest. New system would apply water through a misting system mounted on the harvest equipment.

5

Inquiring regarding whether NRCS practices are the only allowable Technical Guidance Resource for the CAG grants; Brenda indicated that was not the case and that other technical guidance resources may be used. Discussion regarding sending this application through the CAG grant program instead of SPG. SPGs are supposed to be for innovative conservation; it was noted that the timeframe of completion is short and will not fit within the current CAG application deadlines. Discussion regarding setting precedent.

Recommend J3 Farms, Inc. Special Project Grant for approval and funding, with the stipulation that the Natural Resources Committee holds that the project probably would have been better through the CAG grant, but due to misunderstanding, will allow a one-time exception for this project to be funded through the Special Projects Grant. Motioned by Dave, second by Rochelle; passed 3-0.

CREP Tech Position

- 6 Brenda related that the CREP Technician, Drew Donahue, will be shifting to exclusively working on CREP with Clackamas SWCD as of the end of this CREP contract. Brenda will be meeting with the current CREP partners, Polk, Clackamas, and Marion to discuss moving forward with CREP Technical Assistance grant, with the current expectation that Polk and Marion will partner for a CREP Tech grant for the next grant period. **Action: none at this time.**

ODA SOW Grant

- 7 SOW is funding through ODA / OWEB for Ag Water Quality Management; the grant has nine tasks including the Focus Area, it was noted that the committee had previously recommended retaining the same Focus Area. Staff is recommending that the same breakdown of funds as the current biennium, with 45% of the funds for landowner technical assistance, through staff time. **Recommend ODA Scope of Work (SOW) Grant application task breakdown same for 2023-2025 as current biennium.**
- Consensus to continue with same for 2023-25 biennium.

Next Meeting Date: June 21, 2023 at 9:00AM

Adjourned at 10:49 AM

Minutes approved by NR Committee June 21, 2023
