



**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Board of Directors September 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

6:36 PM to 8:43 PM

Facilitator: Chair Olson and Vice-Chair Koch

Recorded by: Brenda Sanchez

Directors & Record of Attendance		Associate Directors
At Large 1-Peggy Hart	Present	Angela Plowhead
At Large 2-Scott Walker	Present	Leland Hardy
Zone 1-Vacant	Vacant	Mark Fields
Zone 2-Vacant	Vacant	
Zone 3-Darin Olson (Chair)	Present	
Zone 4-Dave Budeau (Secretary-Treasurer)	Present	
Zone 5-Rochelle Koch (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Staff		Guests
Brenda Sanchez		Anna Rankin Les Bachelor Kathy P.

Note: All documents and materials displayed or referenced are retained in the Board of Directors Meeting file at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (Marion SWCD or District).

A. Koch Call to Order: 6:36 PM

- Bachelor, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Rankin, Pudding River Watershed Council

B. Announcements - None

C. Agenda Additions or Changes

- Annual Meeting
- Senate Bill 775
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Projects

1. Public Comment

Rankin expresses gratitude from the Watershed Council for partner support and collaboration on the large wood project, rapid bio assessment, and upcoming partner grant support. Rankin shares progress on the large wood project adding that they are putting a video together and conducting the rapid bio assessment at the site. Rankin shared they heard a black bear on site indicating an intact food web is present. Further they have progressed toward shared goals with three

priorities stream habitat restoration, oak savannas, and Watershed Council growth. We have added new staff and are contracting part-time work. Rankin and Kurt Berning will share updates at upcoming Board meetings.

2. District Snapshot

- a) Several technical assistance site visits this month by all of the Planners.
- b) The staff is getting up to speed on ArcMap and GIS software to better map and assess projects.
- c) Salmon Watch season is here; training was completed for staff and volunteers at Packsaddle Park.
- d) Successful event at the Salem Pride in the park, expanding our outreach to underserved audiences.
- e) Facility maintenance this month to clean carpets and debug the ceiling lights.
- f) Completed all the ODA SOW and Capacity Work, signed agreement. Started a new biennium grant.
- g) The new Partner Grant Program is under construction; prepare for Capacity funding to be available as soon as possible (November) and the other grants will follow once the system is in place
- h) Conservation Assistance Grant cycle 1 agreements are completed. Team now working with Cycle 2 applicants.
- i) The Cover Crop Grant application window is now open.
- j) Planning for the Ag Water Quality Area Plan Biennial Review has begun.
- k) Staff completed the KMUZ radio interview.
- l) Urban assistance has begun, Claggett Creek invasive assistance and Bush Pasture Park
- m) Pesticide Stewardship Partnership and Strategic Implementation Areas water quality monitoring activities were completed.

3. Treasurers Report June and July 2023

Budeau starts by stating that we waited until this month to approve June's Treasurers Report because Sanchez wanted more time to get all the end of the year bookkeeping in order and correct. Sanchez explains that after her work reviewing the year's finances that we did have some double counting from bookkeeping errors but we were able to correct and the June report is now correct. Koch asks how much of the FY 22-23 budget was spent. Budeau answers that we spent just under half of the budget. Budeau reviews the amount of the budget we spent. Sanchez adds that the proposed budget was close and we achieved 99.7% of the proposed income. Sanchez reviewed the income. Hart clarified that the percentages noted are percent spent. Budeau reviewed the July report and noted a typo in the USD bank Summary. Discussion ensued on report

format; board would like see dollars right justified to line up decimals. Walker agreed with the grant reporting section of the report.

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **accept the Treasurers Report June for and July 2023, 2nd** by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5: Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau; Opposed-0).

4. July 12 and August 2, 2023, Draft Board Meeting Minutes

Budeau explained that he reviewed both Drafts. Sanchez could not display Budeau's edited version. Walker stated he did not think the August Board minutes captured his thought accurately regarding committees. Walker wants to add that the Board makes decisions not the committees and that the minutes do not express this. Sanchez added the language to the minutes. Other than Walkers amended language and Budeau's minor edits, there were no other edits or changes to Draft 1.

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **approve the July 12 and August 2, 2023, Board Meeting minutes with amended language and Budeau's edits, 2nd** by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5: Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau; Opposed-0).

5. United States Department Agriculture Services Report

Bachelor began by saying they hired Carolyn Weir replacing Jennings's position; starts in October. Busy August we had technical service money remaining after all the irrigation contracts. We made nineteen modifications to our contracts; using up the remaining technical service provider money. New Soil Health Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIS) derived from the last local workgroup meeting, Soil Health. Attending OACD conference. They are under a "spot check", where they look at all the implemented practices. Marion gets checked often because of the scale at which they work. Auditors are here for a week and they will select from the whole of practices to review.

6. Conservation Assistance Grants

a) Extensions and Cancellations

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **approve the LAP extension for Jesse Rogness, 2nd** by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5: Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau; Opposed-0).

Olson adds that he wanted to understand better CAG-20-23-004 and how installing: an underground micro drip system reduces soil erosion. States he will discuss this further with Sanchez. Directors discussed the different micro drip systems and the amount of work done in hazelnut orchards.

b) Grants Completed

Staff created a slideshow of completed projects for Directors to review. Presentation on file.

7. Oregon Department of Agriculture Capacity and Ag Water Quality Program 2023-2025 Grant Agreement

Action: Walker motioned for the Board to **authorize Brenda Sanchez to sign the Oregon Department of Agriculture Capacity and Ag Water Quality Program 2023-2025 Grant Agreement, 2nd** by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5: Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau; Opposed-0).

8. Strategic Planning Meeting Dates and Primer

Sanchez displayed the Strategic Planning Primer that displays the timeline. Sanchez said the Doodle Poll results identified October 10 and 12 for the planning meeting dates. Sanchez discussed the possibility of having a meeting facilitator. Sanchez explained the Board will be looking at the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Strategic Plan. The intent is to have a complete draft for approval at the March 2024 meeting. Koch adds that she has had good and bad experiences with facilitators. Olson adds that we have discussed this and it is best that we have a facilitator. Koch suggests we get a facilitator. Koch would like to see all the programs listed on the screen for reference. Sanchez confirms that is the process currently lined out. Walker adds that the last writer/facilitator did not capture the Board's thoughts well. Budeau adds that he too supports the use of a facilitator, particularly if they have experience with other SWCDs. Directors discussed the components of a strategic plan and how we will work on the plan. Sanchez informed the Board that staff has been working on the plan and working to have a draft outline for the Board to work from. Sanchez pointed out that she provided strategic plan examples from other SWCDs in their packet.

9. Establish Roberts Rules

Sanchez began by stating that Walker wanted to establish Roberts Rules of Order as the standard for the Board. Directors discussed Roberts Rules and current Board procedures. Olson adds that the way we work now is more of a hybrid between Roberts Rules and our own established procedures. Olson states that managing under Roberts Rules is confining and strict, as we work now, we have

more freedom to express ideas and bring up new items. Walker wants a set of rules because he feels we are in a no-mans-land without rules. Koch reviewed that it has been better and feels we have moved forward from prior times that were more disruptive; she wants the interruptions to stop. Walker again says he wants to know what the rules are. Hart feels we should govern ourselves with respect. Sanchez points out the Board member conduct poster on the wall. Discussion continued regarding Walker's disappointment from an earlier meeting where he could not voice his opinions and was shut down. Hart explained that the reason Walker was shut down was because so many opportunities were given to the Board Directors to discuss these policies prior to Board meeting and Walker did not utilize these set opportunities to discuss a very long and complicated policy handbook. Koch agreed. Plowhead adds that even in a committee, where this subject was center, there were enough Directors to have a quorum and decisions could be made. Walker adds that when you have a committee of staff and not a committee of the Board, decisions cannot be made. Directors continued to discuss their high regard for each other and that each of the Directors did their best to be respectful of each other. Koch requests that Sanchez put together (with Olson) a short list of Roberts Rules; 5-6 rules.

10. Discussion Regarding Land Trusts and Easements

Sanchez states that she has been conducting research regarding easements as directed by the Board and displays a document from the Oregon Agricultural Trust (OAT) that displays information regarding easements, trusts, and roles for SWCDs. Sanchez reviews the basics of easements and some of the challenges such as enforcement of the easements, land management, and tenant issues. Sanchez wants to know if she should continue this research path if the Board is highly considering this aspect of conservation. If so, Sanchez requests she would need more time and could have something more tangible for Board discussion later this year or early next year. Sanchez adds she could schedule OAT or other trust programs to present to the Board the highlights of easements and trusts. Directors discussed different aspects of easements. Walker adds "what are the benefits and costs to such a program"? Directors agreed that Sanchez should do some more research. Olson discussed some of the history of this subject with the Directors and that the idea is overwhelming with much risk. Sanchez says she will get back to the Board in early 2024 with more complete information.

11. Annual Meeting

Sanchez explains that she would like the Directors to approve a timeframe for the annual meeting and whether we want an in-person meeting. Sanchez suggests that we conduct an in-person meeting with light snacks and presentations. Directors confirmed January and in-person.

12. Senate Bill 775

Sanchez reviews the new SWCD Director eligibility adopted on August 1, 2023. Directors discussed the new law and clarified the changes and potentially requesting Oregon Department of Agriculture to revise Zone boundaries based on new census info.

13. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Project Approval

Olson asks the Directors if they would be willing to approve the CREP projects. Directors said it would be OK. Koch declares a conflict of interest regarding Whole Circle Farms CREP Plan and will abstain from voting. Hart reviews each project out loud and Budeau confirms that these projects are vetted by USDA.

Action: Hart motioned for the Board to **approve Whole Circle Farms CREP project plan**, 2nd by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION FAILED (Aye-3: Olson, Hart, and Budeau; Opposed-0; Abstain-2: Walker, Koch).

Action: Hart motioned for the Board to **acknowledge the Boards responsibility and sign the other (Henny and Mugica) CREP project plans**, 2nd by Budeau. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 (Walker, Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau), Opposed-0).

Adjourn: Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM



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