







**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 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 Link Here](#)
-  **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	WaterPoint Irrigation Technologies presentation	Bill Terry	10 min.
3	Partner Grant	S. Ortiz	30 min.
4	Annual Workplan	B. Sanchez	10 min.
9	Cover Crop Grant	B. Pineda	10 min.
	Meeting Adjournment	Chair	

Agenda Brief

Item #	Brief	Action
1	Updates on district programs from staff	No action needed
2	Sharing of data and explaining the science behind WaterPoint's technologies to help growers reduce chemical use and irrigation set duration and frequency.	No action needed
3	Continued discussion of the Partner Grant framework.	Review, Revise, Recommend
4	Annual and Long-Range Business Plans Planning is the basic tool to develop conservation district programs. To develop and maintain an effective conservation district program, directors and staff	Recommend for Board approval

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must identify local conservation needs, often referred to as 'resource concerns;' set corresponding goals; develop clear measurable objectives towards those goals and identify the tasks needed to accomplish those objectives. Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568.554 requires conservation districts to create and submit to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) both a long-range business plan and an annual work plan. The long-range business plan, annual work plan, and annual budget should all work together to guide the daily operations and programs of the conservation district.

An annual work plan outlines specific activities the conservation district will pursue in the next fiscal year to address the goals and objectives defined in the long-range business plan. The annual work plan describes in detail who is going to do what, by when, and how. The plan should be completed prior to the beginning of the fiscal year and cover the activities planned over the next fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). The annual work plan is submitted to ODA for review and comment as part of the application process to be eligible for the SWCD Capacity Grants.

5	Hear staff recommendation for 2023 Cover Crop Grant. The Cover Crop Grant is in the budget for this upcoming fiscal year, but has remained a pilot program, so we are seeking Board approval.	Discussion, Recommend
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Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members	Present/Absent	Staff	Guests
Dave Budeau	Present	Brenda Sanchez	Bill Terry
Rochelle Koch	Present	Chelsea Blank	Peggy Hart
Leland Hardy	Absent	Cesar Zamora	
Becky Pineda	Present	Josiah Poole	
Susan Ortiz	Present		

Item #	Minutes	Action/ Vote Count
	Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.	
0	Minutes – February 15, 2023 and April 26, 2023 Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.	Becky moved to approve the February 15, 2023 and April 26, 2023 Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes, 2 nd by Susan. Vote passed unanimously.
1	Updates -Becky has continued work on the manure management program and has been providing tarps for covering the manure piles; she will attend youth meetings and the Marion County Fair to inform youth and other livestock producers on manure management.	
2	WaterPoint Irrigation Technologies presentation by Bill Terry. The goal of the technology is to reduce overwatering, over-fertigation, and improve soil health. The technology uses a low-power radio frequency (RF) to create a change in the electrons in the water, thereby causing a surfactant effect. It is a relatively straightforward three-step process to optimize plants' nutrient and water uptake – 1) treat the water, 2) monitor the plants, soil, and water, and 3) adjust. The RF signal reduces the surface water tension to a tension similar to 40-degree warmer water. The technology was developed for the oil and gas industries to reduce scale and algae in the pipelines. The result of using the technology is that the irrigation water spreads laterally, but not necessarily as far vertically which allows the water to remain in the root zone and available for the plants. Most systems they install are rent or lease to own. Website: www.waterpointinc.com	Informational.

3	<p>Partner Grants. The Board recommended for this committee to review and provide a more thorough outline of the program framework. Susan noted that staff met to develop the review evaluation process and a recommendation on payments under the framework of the grant program. Susan went through the revisions recommended by staff. Committee would like to see both of the payment options presented and allow the Board to determine.</p>	<p>Becky moved to recommend the revised Partner Grant framework with two payment options to the Board. Rochelle 2nd. Passed unanimously.</p>
4	<p>Annual Workplan. Brenda provided a brief overview of the District's Annual Workplan as is required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>Susan moved to recommend the 2023-2024 District Annual Workplan to the Board. Becky 2nd. Passed unanimously.</p>
5	<p>Cover Crop Grant. Becky presented the result of the 2022-2023 Cover Crop Assistance Grant. She noted that the 2023-2024 budget includes the Cover Crop Assistance Grant. Staff recommends that the Cover Crop Assistance Grant becomes a regular grant program, as stability helps with outreach. Discussion that all conservation projects, not just cover crops, are actions that land managers "should" do, and providing incentive for cover cropping is no different than providing grant funding for any other type of conservation improvement.</p>	<p>Dave motioned to recommend making the Cover Crop Assistance Grant program a permanent District grant program, based on the 2022-2023 rates. Susan 2nd. Passed unanimously.</p>
<hr/> <p>Meeting adjourned 11:01AM</p> <hr/>		