



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Board of Directors January 7th, 2026
Monthly Meeting Minutes

06:31 PM – 09:25 PM

Facilitator: Chair Darin Olson

Recorded by: Brenda Sanchez

Approved Date: 02/04/2026

Directors Record of Attendance		Associate Directors
At Large 1-Peggy Hart (Secretary-Treasurer)	Present	Lee Hardy
At Large 2-Vacant	Vacant	
Zone 1-Noah Justice	Present	
Zone 2-Nik Ovchinnikov	Absent	
Zone 3-Darin Olson (Chair)	Present	
Zone 4-Angela Plowhead (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Zone 5-Rochelle Koch	Present	
Staff		Guests
Brenda Sanchez		JOHN SAVAGE – Chair-President
Ivy Chapelle		- <i>Native Plant Society of Oregon</i>
Susan Ortiz		MEGHAN OCHAL – Treasurer
Kristen McAlpine		- <i>Pringle Creek Sustainable Living Center (PCSLC)</i>
		MACKAYLA FITHIAN –
		Stewardship and Restoration
		Manager
		- <i>Pudding River Watershed Council</i>

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).

Minutes

Chair Olson Call to Order: 06:31 PM

A. Agenda Additions or Changes

Sanchez requested to add to the agenda:

1. Appoint a Budget Officer
2. National Core Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual, Third Edition 2025 – Spanish Translation

No other agenda additions or changes.

B. Public Comment

Two public guests introduced themselves:

1. John Savage – Introduced himself as a prospective Board member. He heard about the position at the District's 2025 Annual Celebration then called Olson. His involvement around conservation includes Straub Outdoors, Co-Owner of the Red Alder Group, living at Pringle Creek Community, Chair-President of the Willamette Valley Native Plant Society of Oregon, on the Board of the Institute for Applied Ecology, and is running two scholarship programs for botany and habitat restoration. Previously he was Chair of the Marion County Weed Board where he worked closely with the MSWCD, has been on the District's Budget Committee, and has run for the Board. He worked as a public utility commissioner for 14 years, and before that he worked for the public in energy with the state of Oregon.
2. Meghan Ochal – Introduced herself as the Board secretary of the Pringle Creek Sustainable Living Center (PCSLC). She highlighted the grants received from the MSWCD and explained their current grant application. The PCSLC Board is looking for capacity and technical assistance to help leverage their land ownership and access to the entire PCSLC property.

Hart inquired about Ochal's Partner Grant application, that is under review tonight, and Olson directs the discussion to continue during the Review of the Partner Grant Applications.

C. Announcements

No announcements.

1. Board of Directors Annual Officer Elections

Olson announces the Board of Directors Annual Officer elections, the terms to begin on January 8th, 2026.

- Chair – Angela Plowhead
- Vice-Chair – Darin Olson
- Secretary-Treasurer – Peggy Hart

Olson noted that any requested changes to committees be submitted to Plowhead, moving forward.

Action: Olson motioned that the Board **approve the Board of Directors Annual Officer Elections**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

2. Draft Board Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2025

Sanchez displayed the meeting minutes.

Action: Plowhead motioned that the Board **approve the December 3, 2025, Board meeting minutes as edited**, 2nd by Justice. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

3. Draft Treasurer's Monthly Report for December 2025

The Board reviewed the report and Hart discussed the following

- Revisions
- Remarks
 - Approximately \$500,000 - Current Year Levied Taxes Received through November 31st, 2025
 - Wages are at 35%
 - \$255,000 is the 2025-2026 Parter Grants Program Budget. The applications succeeded with that by \$150,000. A total of \$406,852 was received in requested grant funds. Related to this is monitoring the cash on hand at the end of the year.
 - \$43,821, indicated in red on the report, of the 25-26 Previous Year's Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) shows a deficit because it was not paid out by the end of the year, 06/30/2025. Some of the grantee's projects weren't completed by 06/30/2025, so the final payment couldn't be funded within the intended 2024-25 budget.

Action: Koch motioned that the Board **accept as presented the December 2025 Treasurers Report**, 2nd by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

4. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Agenda item was moved to next month, as the guest was not available to attend the meeting.

5. Grant Programs

Sanchez presented a report showing the two Conservation Assistance Grants (CAG) completed grants and one cancellation request for November and December 2025.

- a. Grants Competed Report
 - CAG-20-25-019 North Howell Irrigation Upgrade:
 - CAG-20-25-023 Howell Prairie Hazelnut Drip:
- b. Grants Cancellation Request

- CAG-20-26-015 – Basl Erosion Control

Action: Hart motioned that the Board **approve the cancellation of the CAG-20-26-015 – Basl Erosion Control**, 2nd by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

6. Regular Status & Step Increase for Communication and Outreach Specialist

Sanchez noted this is regarding our staff member Zimmer and confirmed it's been approximately six months since their hire date.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve Regular Status & Step Increase for the Communication and Outreach Specialist**, 2nd by Justice. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

7. Partner Grant Applications Review

Olson explained the review process, noting staff reviewed all the applications and if the Board has technical questions during the review Ortiz, the District's Grant Specialist, is available to provide insight. Sanchez clarified for Koch that the Board directed the Partner Grants review to staff, including the respective teams (Natural Resources Team, Education and Outreach Team, and Administrative Team). Sanchez mentioned that the Partner Grant Pilot Program Review by the Board and staff is currently being conducted. Based on feedback, a report will be presented and the Partner Grant's status will be discussed at the March Board meeting.

The Board discussed each application, then voted on individual applications.

Project not recommended for funding:

- a. 60-26-008 Community Voices Shape Conservation Strategy
 - Koch requested details regarding why the recommended funding is zero dollars. Sanchez explained that the Greenbelt Land Trust is the only trust in Marion County but hasn't established trust lands. The concern is that they're looking in urban areas to find easements when they haven't established larger areas, and questions if that is in the District's best interest.

Project withdrawn from funding:

- b. 60-26-004 Hotline & iMapInvasives Capacity Support
 - Project withdrawn because the Board previously voted on and approved the expenditure from a different budget line item.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **deny 60-26-004 Hotline & iMapInvasives Capacity Support and 60-26-008 Community Voices Shape Conservation Strategy**, 2nd by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0)).

Projects Recommended for funding:

- c. 60-26-001 Pudding River WC Capacity Grant
 - Olson asked for clarification as to where the fish passage barrier is located. Fithian explained that they are in Scotts Mills and Abiqua intake with the City of Silverton. In addition, there are some other barriers and culverts, if the opportunity presents itself.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **accept 60-26-001 Pudding River WC Capacity Grant with staff's recommended funding award of \$10,000**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0)).

- d. 60-26-002 2026 North Santiam WC Capacity
 - Olson asked for feedback. None noted.

Action: Olson motions the Board to **accept 60-26-002 2026 North Santiam WC Capacity for staff's recommended award of \$10,000**, 2nd by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0)).

- e. 60-26-003 SLC Program Manager
 - Olson requested clarification from the applicant about the current on-site Homeowners Association's (HOA) interest in financially developing this themselves.
 - Ochal noted a strained relationship between the HOA and the PCSLC. The HOA hasn't expressed commitment in funding conservation education. PCSLC is a volunteer-based non-profit that was founded to do educational work on-site. The HOA manages the HOA-owned properties, including a community center, urban farm, and garden. These areas are available to PCSLC, with the HOA's permission, free of charge. Ochal explained PCSLC requested capacity funds for the intended Program Manager to coordinate between PCSLC, the HOA, and District staff, etc.
 - Ochal further discussed the HOA's funding potential, noting they may become interested if the intended Program Manager benefits the HOA directly, beyond education, such as restoring the riparian area.
 - Sanchez explained the application's uncertainty and recommended granting \$10,000 for capacity, to develop a job description for the

Program Manager. Once this is completed, the other grant application funds of about \$8,000 can be used to create the project program, using the District's Urban Conservationist services.

- Hart highlighted the grant funds are for a limited length of time.
- Ochal stated again that the HOA is not financially committed but may be in the future, if the program can be shown as valuable to them. She clarified that the PCSLC's current funds are from a capacity grant received before 2020, answering Olson's question.
- Plowhead asked for clarification as to why the District should fund the project if the HOA doesn't financially support the program's project. Ochal clarified that the HOA is in an on-going lawsuit and their financial budget doesn't have enough reserves. Adding, that they view the PCSLC program as an external entity.
- Savage elaborated on the community saying that the origins of the development were about sustainable living. The separation of the non-profit and the HOA happened a long time ago. In 2007 when the development seriously began, the sustainable living center was created to be a self-sustaining educational center of the community.
- Ochal added that the HOA primarily consists of homeowners, but the PCSLC intends to educate everyone with the focus on school groups, walking tours, etc. They will continue applying to sustain the program's budget, adding that she is a grant writer, responding to Plowhead's question.
- Olson raised the question if the PCSLC anticipates the HOA to respond negatively when more public events are held on their properties. Ochal noted this as a valid objection, adding that they're still figuring out the best way to host and promote their programs. For example, limited on-site parking is the community's biggest concern, so transportation to the site is best by carpooling, public transit, biking, etc. The HOA and the non-profit have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), attached to application, which gives the PCSLC use of their property.
- Hart questioned if the HOA would benefit from education about the PCSLC's goals, to which Ochal said she is working on a HOA survey.

Action: Olson motions the Board to **accept 60-26-003 SLC Program Manager with staff's recommended funding of \$10,000**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion.
MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- f. 60-26-005 Sharing emerging plant diversity information
 - Sanchez noted staff recommended a reduction of funding from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

- Hart recalled staff's objection that the granted funds would serve outside Marion County too, as the organization is statewide.
- Plowhead also recalled the committee positively discussing the applicant's other funding partners.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-005 Sharing emerging plant diversity information with a revised funding amount of \$2,500**, 2nd by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

g. 60-26-006 Protecting Marion County Working Lands

- Olson presented the application, highlighting staff's recommendation of funding from \$10,000 to \$2,500.
- Olson and Koch request elaboration on easements and Sanchez noted staff's objection that the District's funds would not only serve Marion County, as the organization is statewide. She also mentioned that the Board hasn't decided how to respond to easement requests.
- Plowhead noted the organization would reach a limited area in Marion County, 600 acres.
- The organization has applied for two Partner Grants this cycle. Hart suggested this application was biased against because staff largely found the other application objectionable.
- Olson, Hart, and Sanchez continued discussing funding adjustments.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **accept 60-26-006 Protecting Marion County Working Lands with a revised funding amount of \$5,000**, 2nd by Olson. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

h. 60-26-007 Tackling Aquatic Invasives Species and Restoring In-stream Habitat - Summer 2026

- Olson expressed concerns around the amount of acreage being restored, and the cost of manual treatments.
- The discussion continued about cost analysis of herbicide treatments. Ortiz responded that the Chahalpam pond located on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde requires manual treatment due to its ecological sensitivity and cultural significance. The applicant is concerned about putting herbicides on ground that may be used for first foods. For the Chankawan pond, they're doing spot spraying after manual pulling. And Alder Creek requires manual treatment to avoid potential water quality impacts due to the City of Salem's water treatment facility that is just downstream. Ortiz responded to Hart noting the applicant has long-range plans, a 50 year, and potentially a 100 year.

- Hart asked, and was informed that the organization sprays invasives which are located in less sensitive areas.
- Discussion continued about grant caps.
- Sanchez noted this was one of the highest ranked applications by staff. Olson noted it's one of the few grants who staff recommended for 100% funding.
- Discussion continued about the program's evaluation assignments, review criteria, and rankings.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **accept 60-26-007 Tackling Aquatic Invasives Species and Restoring In-stream Habitat - Summer 2026 with a revised funding amount of \$20,000**, 2nd by Justice.

Action: Plowhead makes a friendly amendment to the Board to **accept 60-26-007 Tackling Aquatic Invasives Species and Restoring In-stream Habitat - Summer 2026 with a revised funding amount of \$15,000**, no 2nd. MOTION DIED.

- Koch repeatedly approved of the staff's time spent on application reviews, site visits, and funding recommendations. Hart agreed.
- Hart and Justice didn't approve of Plowhead's friendly amendment.
- The discussion continued about the applicant's preferred weed remediation treatments, and how the Board could respond to such requests.
- Plowhead and Olson noted they'd discussed recommended funding at \$12,000.
- Olson asked if the project's properties were acquired within the last 5 years and if there is a short-term budget and maintenance plan. Plowhead agreed with the concern that the District will be asked again to fund this project. Olson suggested funding of \$18,000.

Action: Olson makes a friendly amendment to the Board to **accept 60-26-007 Tackling Aquatic Invasives Species and Restoring In-stream Habitat - Summer 2026 with a revised funding amount of \$18,000**. Hart and Justice accept the friendly amendment. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- Ortiz requested to add to the discussion, Hart adding she'd like to hear feedback. Olson noted that the Board is having the discussion and question has already been called.
- i. 60-26-009 Silverton Salmon Day
- Olson presented the application noting the recommended funding is \$5,107 and the funding request is for \$34,686.
 - Ortiz noted the Community Roots School has met their ceiling for this fiscal year for the Conservation Learning Education and Resource

(C.L.E.A.R.) Grant Program. Regarding overall funding they've received \$16,460 over the last 5 years.

- Discussion continued around types of educational grants and funding adjustments.
- Hart noted the Silverton Salmon Day event is brand new, but the Community Roots School has done integrated salmon education for 8 years. Sanchez clarified the applicant would be required to submit receipts since this is an Education and Outreach grant type. Ortiz highlighted the Recommended Revisions have been approved by the applicants, this is regarding all applications.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-009 Silverton Salmon Day for staff's recommended funding of \$5,107, 2nd** by Olson.

- Plowhead called further discussion noting approval of the applicant's community involvement.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

j. 60-26-010 Oregon Garden Oak Restoration: Phase 1

- Olson noted the applicant could request additional funds for this project in the next years.
- Sanchez added that the District's Strategic Plan includes Oak Restoration. She highlighted that the 25-acres of restoration includes climbing and removing dangerous limbs from 50-75 trees, in approximately 5 days of work, and includes spraying for blackberry regrowth.
- Olson noted the project seems costly, at approximately \$1,000 an acre. Discussion continued about the cost analysis per acre. Olson asked why The Oregon Garden, a for-profit resort on the same site, isn't funding this project. Koch and Sanchez confirmed that the Oregon Garden Foundation, the applicant, is a separate entity than The Oregon Garden Resort, although on the same site.
- Plowhead questioned if the project meets the District's goals because The Oregon Gardens is a state-wide attraction. Sanchez & Plowhead agreed it does inspire, which is a District goal.
- Fithian added that the budget for the certified arborist work is high because of the oak Heritage Tree.
- Discussion continued about the cost analysis per acre, and potentially outlining a parameter on the application.
- Hart questioned the budget item Project and Grant Management under Oregon Garden staff time, since she was under the impression they

didn't have staff working in the gardens. Koch confirms they have arborists, yard, and maintenance crews.

- Discussion continued about the review process, and the best way for the Board and staff to manage this.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-010 Oregon Garden Oak Restoration: Phase 1 for staff's recommended funding award of \$24,384**, 2nd by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

k. 60-26-011 Soil Health Network Regional Hub

- Sanchez explained that the recommendation to fund is for \$10,704, when the Requested Funding was \$34,311, is because their grants request was to pay MSWCD staff that are already working in the Hub, so those budget items were removed. The applicant approved of the revised application.
- Discussion continued around Olson's question about what size of landowners the Hub is looking for and the benefits of managing soil health in agriculture. Hart noted that the project will require significant educational outreach. Sanchez recounted the District already agreed to build the Hub in 2025.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-011 Soil Health Network Regional Hub for the staff's recommended \$10,704 funding award**, 2nd by Koch. HART WITHDRAWS MOTION.

- Plowhead called discussion. The Board discussed voting rules.
- Olson voiced concern that the District joined the Hub in 2025, and now the Hub is asking for funding. Plowhead recalled the Board discussing joining the Hub and that there wasn't a funding requirement when initially joining. Also, noting that MSWCD staff are already supporting the initiative by working with them.
- Hart highlighted that this is an emerging program and may be open to Olson's feedback.
- Olson noted objections, adding that the program's target audience is unclear. Olson called Justice to comment. Justice expressed uncertainty regarding their plan's efficacy and the cost.
- Discussion continued about MSWCD's costs since joining the Hub, and the benefits. Sanchez and Hart highlighted the main benefit of joining the Hub is to generate more agricultural clients, and that the program drives people to the District seeking technical and soil health assistance.

- Justice explained hesitancy about the return on investment without evidence of the Hub's success. Hardy agreed with Justice.
- Sanchez recapped that the partnership was initially presented as not requiring District funds, noting that the District would be compensated for training and the Hubs would generate clients.
- Plowhead and Olson questioned why staff were not building the network internally rather than providing \$10,000 to this emerging program. Plowhead noted the program has been active for six months, since July 2025, and questioned the outcomes so far. Sanchez confirmed Hubs are set up. Koch added approval for the project.
- Sanchez displayed the Oregon Climate Agricultural Network (OrCAN) agreement and explained the applicant's funds would be for the Hub's Executive Director.

Action: Plowhead motions the Board to **deny 60-26-011 Soil Health Network Regional Hub and re-apply 2026 year with plan efficacy**, 2nd by Olson.

- Discussion continued about the longevity of the programs funding and survivability.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION DIED (Aye-3 [Plowhead, Olson, Justice] Opposed-2 [Koch, Hart]).

Action: Hart motions the Board to **60-26-011 Soil Health Network Regional Hub with revised funding of \$2,500 with the condition to provide the District with a report in six months**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

I. 60-26-012 Fir Grove Habitat Restoration

- Olson presented the application highlighting the Funding Request was for \$23,100, and the Recommended Funding award was \$8,400. Hart noted this is the Pringle Creek Sustainable Living Community applicant, again. Sanchez explained the staff's recommendations to the applicant that they first recommend hiring a project manager then to develop the project. The total of \$18,400 would be given to the community to hire a project manager, then that person would write the project plan.
- Olson noted this project is \$5,600 an acre, and it's a 1.5-acre project.
- Discussion continued about structuring grants for this community's projects.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-012 Fir Grove Habitat Restoration for the revised funding award of \$9,000**, no 2nd. MOTION DIED.

Action: Olson motions the Board to **approve 60-26-012 Fir Grove Habitat Restoration for staff's recommended funding award of \$8,400 with the condition**

that the Chair and Manager are to release funds upon approval of a job description, 2nd by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

m. 60-26-013 Good For the Soil Workshop

- Sanchez presented the application highlighting the Funding Request was for \$28,211, and the Recommended Funding award was \$13,911. The event's in Salem, targeting 50 Marion County residents, but is a state-wide event. With the revised funding of \$13,911, the cost per person is \$278. Guests aren't being charged.
- The \$10,000 budget item for a speaker was largely objectionable. Hart noted capacity concerns referencing the high cost to develop the workshop's curriculum.
- Koch noted it appears to be an affordable, local, regenerative, farming event.
- Discussion continued about the applicant's budget cost analysis and alignment with the District's goals.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-013 Good For The Soil Workshop with the revised funding award of \$10,000 with the condition it's used only to fund the speaker,** no 2nd. MOTION DIED.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-013 Good For The Soil Workshop with the revised funding of \$10,000,** 2nd by Hart.

- Olson called for discussion. Hart and Plowhead mentioned capacity concerns. Justice questioned why the organizers aren't charging \$100-\$200 a guest.
- Hart and Koch agreed to rescind their votes.

Action: MOTION RESCINDED.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **deny 60-26-013 Good For The Soil Workshop,** 2nd by Justice. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- Hart added that the applicants' goals are aligned with the Districts', but expressed uncertainty about the organizational capacity.

n. 60-26-014 Keizer Rapids Park Interpretive Signage

- Olson presented the application noting the budget seems appropriate for signage.
- Hart noted Recommended Funding is for \$6,700 and the Funding Request was for \$6,700, staff recommending a full funding on this project.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-014 Keizer Rapids Park Interpretive Signage for the staff's recommended funding award of \$6,700**, 2nd by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- o. 60-26-015 Woodburn Ash Tree Inventory
 - Olson presented the application noting the Recommended Funding is for \$10,865 and the Funding Request was for \$11,565.
 - Olson questioned the District's alignment with the project, the objective of the project, and the project's action items. Hart explained the project is about cataloging the compromised Ash Trees and transplanting in the riparian areas.
 - Discussion continued about tree trimming and the Pudding River Watershed Council's grant cap with MSWCD.
 - Koch and Hart noted approval of the project.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-015 Woodburn Ash Tree Inventory for the staff's recommended funding award of \$10,865**, 2nd by Koch.

- Olson expressed uncertainty about project.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-1 [Plowhead]).

- p. 60-26-016 Strategic Plan for Salmonids
 - Olson presented the application noting the Recommended Funding is for \$34,859 and the Funding Request was for \$34,859, noting no other objections.
 - Plowhead provided positive feedback noting that the applicant has a lot of matching funds and the impact of their completed survey.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-016 Strategic Plan for Salmonids for the staff's recommended funding award of \$34,859**, 2nd by Koch.

- Olson called discussion. Plowhead asked how many grant applications the Pudding River Watershed Council is associated with.
- Discussion continued about Butte Creek dam.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0 Abstained-1 [Plowhead]).

- q. 60-26-017 Silver Creek Riparian Corridor
 - Olson presented the application noting the Recommended Funding is for \$24,800 and the Funding Request was for \$34,800. He objected to the cost per acre.

- Hart noted that the project location is highly trafficked. Adding, this project is for .53 acres, but the project's master plan encompasses 28 acres.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-017 Silver Creek Riparian Corridor for the staff's recommended funding award of \$24,800, 2nd** by Hart.

- Olson called discussion. Plowhead noted that although the area is highly trafficked the project cost seems high.
- Koch added appreciation of the staff members effort to make the knowledgeable recommendations to the Board.
- Discussion continued about future review processes and cost analysis of other applications.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- r. 60-26-018 NSHS (North Salem High School) Field Based Science Education
 - Olson presented the application noting the Recommended Funding is for \$2,900 and the Funding Request was \$20,000.
 - Sanchez explained that North Salem High School has met their C.L.E.A.R. Grant cap with MSWCD, so they are applying to the Partner Grant Program. Staff's recommended budget has been reduced significantly to only reflect the Little Habitat Project Expenses.
 - Discussion continued about handling educational grants in the future.
 - Olson and Plowhead mentioned increasing the funding.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-018 NSHS [North Salem High School] Field Based Science Education with a revised funding of \$5,000, 2nd** by Olson. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- s. 60-26-019 "Roots So Deep" Screening & Tour
 - Olson presented the application, noting that staff have approved the full Requested Funding amount of \$5,191.
 - The Board noted some confusion about the intended outcome. Justice agreed and suggested denying the application. Plowhead and Olson noted that it seems expensive to screen a movie.
 - Sanchez added that the District currently educates on managing manure, which is in alignment with the event. Adding the importance of the topic, which aligns with soil health and water-shed management.
 - Hart requested review of the budget and Sanchez highlighted venue rental, catering, and staffing.

Action: Hart motions the Board to **approve 60-26-019 “Roots So Deep” Screening & Tour with a revised funding of \$1,000, 2nd** by Koch.

- Olson called discussion. Olson, Plowhead, and Justice noted hesitancy, but that they would support funding of \$1,000.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

- t. 60-26-020 Bush's Pasture Park Riparian Stewardship
 - Olson presented the application highlighting the Recommended Funding is for \$33,880 and the Funding Request is for \$35,000. The project includes approximately 200 acres, which would be \$13,552 an acre. Their plan includes 125-175 volunteers, which is positive, although the budget seems high.
 - Discussion continued about applications funding allocation.

Action: Koch motions the Board to **approve 60-26-020 Bush's Pasture Park Riparian Stewardship for the staff's recommended funding award of \$33,880, 2nd** by Hart.

- Olson called discussion. Koch noted the staff's high rating of the project. Sanchez displayed the applicant's budget. Olson highlighted that the area is very heavily trafficked. Justice appreciated the plan's implementation strategy including 120 volunteers.
- Plowhead suggested lowering the funding.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-1 [Plowhead]).

Action: Vote revised by Plowhead. (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

8. District Snapshot

Sanchez introduced the newest staff member, Kristen McAlpine, the District's Urban Conservationist.

9. Yamhill-Marion Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Riparian Conservationist Agreement - Amendment A to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Sanchez presented Amendment A to the IGA between Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District and Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, which was executed on 02/01/2024.

Action: Olson motions for the Board to **agree and sign Amendment A to the Yamhill-Marion CREP Riparian Conservationist IGA, 2nd** by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

10. District Liability Insurance Services (SDIS) 2026 Renewal

Action: Hart motioned that the Board **authorize the District Manager to approve and pay the SDIS 2026 insurance renewal upon receipt of the final invoice, in an amount not to exceed the estimated premium, subject to any minor adjustments reflected in the final billing, 2nd** by Justice.

- Plowhead asked whether any changes were on the new policy. Sanchez stated there was a price increase and that the price might go up after reviewing the cyber security quote, which is within the approved budget.

Action: No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

11. Letters of Support

Sanchez highlighted that the Board has approved letters of support from these organizations previously.

- a. Yamhill SWCD's Mid-Willamette Aquatic Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Surveys and Treatment 2026
 - The District would be a partner providing approximately 50 hours of staff time.
- b. North Santiam Clear Waters Initiative: Tackling Aquatic Invasives Surrounding Lyons/Mehama on the North Santiam River

Action: Hart motioned that the Board **approve the two Letters of Support for Yamhill SWCD's Mid-Willamette Aquatic EDRR Surveys and Treatment 2026, and North Santiam Clear Waters Initiative: Tackling Aquatic Invasives Surrounding Lyons/Mehama on the North Santiam River, 2nd** by Koch. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

12. Appoint a Budget Officer

Action: Koch motions to **approve Sanchez as Budget Officer for 2026, 2nd** by Plowhead. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-5 [Plowhead, Olson, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-0).

13. National Core Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual, Third Edition 2025 – Spanish Translation

Sanchez recapped that the Board previously supported getting The National Core Pesticide Applicators Manual transcribed into Spanish. Hood River SWCD is organizing this effort. SWCDs were asked to support the effort and requested that those Districts who could, to provide a \$4,200 contribution. Previously, Sanchez had committed an initial \$2,400, with an agreement to potentially fund the full amount on the condition that Hood River's effort proved successful. . Hood River SWCD was able to get enough SWCDs to provide \$4,200 to cover the cost of the translation. Sanchez is asking the Board to contribute the final \$1,800 to equal \$4,200. Once translation is completed the English to Spanish translation will be available nationally.

Hart highlighted that the pesticide applicator test is provided in Spanish, but the preparation material are not provided in Spanish.

Action: Koch motions to **approve the additional funding of \$1,800 to equal a total of \$4,200 for the Spanish translation of the National Core Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual**–, 2nd by Hart. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Plowhead, Koch, Justice, Hart] Opposed-1 [Olson]).

Clarification for the Record:

At the direction of the Board (02-04-26), this action is noted to reflect the Board's intent that the motion approved an additional \$1,800, bringing the total authorized funding to \$4,200. No new action was taken.

14. Natural Resources Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00AM on 02/11/2026.

15. Education & Outreach Committee

The next meeting date and time will be announced soon.

16. Administration Committee

Agenda items moved to next Board Meeting.

The next meeting is in February, the date and time to be announced soon.

17. SWCD Advocacy, Lobbying, & Political Activity

Agenda item moved to the next Board Meeting.

Adjourn: Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 09:25 PM



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please contact the District Manager at 503-391-9927 as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.