

Committee members are reminded to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest prior to discussion of relevant agenda items.

**DRAFT**



**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)  
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Agenda **DRAFT****

**DAY**  
**April 13, 2026**  
**9:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

*Our mission is to partner with people in support of thriving lands, clean water, and healthy habitats. We do this through planning, technical assistance, funding, and education.*

This meeting will be held by video conference (Zoom), and by telephone.

**Call In Number:** 1-253-215-8782 | **Meeting ID:** 821 3239 7029 | **Passcode:** 465879

**Staff Contact:** Amy Zimmer | [amy.zimmer@marionswcd.net](mailto:amy.zimmer@marionswcd.net)

<b>Agenda Changes and/or Additions</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>1. Public Comment</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	5 minutes
<b>2. Approve February 17, 2026 Minutes</b> Action	<b>Chair</b>
	5 minutes
<b>3. Committee Meeting Dates and CLEAR Grant Deadlines</b> Action	<b>Zimmer</b>
	10 minutes
<b>4. District Education Grant Funding</b> Action	<b>Zimmer</b>
	30 minutes
<b>5. FY '25-26 CLEAR Grant Report</b> Informative	<b>Roosth</b>
	5 minutes
<b>6. CLEAR Grant Final Report Spotlights</b> Informative	<b>Roosth</b>
	10 minutes

**Meeting Adjourned – Chair**

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Oregon residents can file a written grievance with the Marion SWCD regarding a violation of the Public Meetings Law within 30 days of the alleged violation. The grievance should include details about the alleged violation and be submitted to the Marion SWCD District Manager for review.



Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)  
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes 17 February, 2026

DRAFT

11:02 AM to 12:27 PM

Facilitator: Amy Zimmer

Recorded by: Kassi Roosth

Approved: DATE

Committee Member Attendance

Peggy Hart - Director	Present
Noah Justice - Director	Absent
Kassi Roosth - Staff	Present
Rochelle Koch - Director	Present
Amy Zimmer - Staff	Present
Staff	Guests
Name	Name
Kristen McAlpine	Present
Brenda Sanchez	Present
Susan Ortiz	Present
Sarah Hamilton	Present

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

Minutes

Call to Order-Chair: 11:02 AM

Announcements - None

Agenda Additions or Changes - None

1. Public Comment - No Comments

2. **Appoint New E&O Committee Chair.**

**Action:** Koch motioned for Hart to be the committee chair. Roosth seconds. No further discussion. **MOTION Passed.** [Aye-4 (Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart), Opposed-0]

- 3. Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes – November, 18, 2025**  
**Action:** Hart asks for the date and time to be added. Zimmer agrees to fix the error. Koch makes a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Roosth seconds. No further discussion. All in favor. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart], Opposed-0)
- 4. McKay High School CLEAR Grant Request**  
Hart asks for clarification on the budget, noting that the Mount St. Helens Institute instruction costs are listed as \$450, but they will provide 90% financial assistance. Roosth clarifies that the \$450 in requested funds represents 10% of the total costs based on the fees posted on the website. Hart asks that this be added to the admin notes on Foundant. Koch makes a motion to recommend funding the request of \$3,124. Roosth seconds. No further discussion. All in favor. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart], Opposed-0)
- 5. Redeemer Community Garden CLEAR Grant Request**  
Koch makes a motion to fund the Redeemer Community Garden CLEAR Grant request of \$1430. Zimmer seconds. No further discussion. All in favor. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart], Opposed-0)
- 6. Miller Elementary CLEAR Grant Request**  
Koch makes a motion to fund the Miller Elementary CLEAR Grant request of \$3,010. Zimmer seconds. No further discussion. All in favor. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart], Opposed-0)
- 7. Oregon Agriculture Trust CLEAR Grant Request**  
Koch raises concerns about the \$5,000 request, noting that participants will also pay a \$50 registration fee and questioning the overall cost per attendee. Hart asks whether this is the revised proposal previously submitted through the Partner Grant Program. Roosth confirms the applicant reduced the keynote speaker fee and amended the budget.

Discussion focuses on staff salary costs included in the request. Ortiz explains that as a nonprofit, OAT relies on grant funding to cover staff time. Committee members discuss, but decline, the idea of suggesting a higher registration fee.

Zimmer and Roosth note the value of strengthening partnerships and building relationships with local producers, and express support for the project and its soil health focus.

Koch makes a motion to approve the Oregon Agricultural Trust CLEAR grant request for \$5,000. Zimmer seconds. No further discussion. All in favor. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Zimmer, Hart], Opposed-0)

## **8. CLEAR Grant Budget for FY 2025-26**

Roosth recommends moving funds to fully fund the CLEAR grant requests this cycle and finish the final grant cycle for the fiscal year. Sanchez emphasized setting clear budgets and cautioned against overspending without board approval.

Hart suggested splitting the discussion into two motions: one for the \$613.35 overage and one for broader budget considerations. Sanchez suggested presenting the \$10,000 transfer first at the board meeting to cover the \$613.35 if approved.

It was clarified that the \$613.35 could be covered by existing unallocated partner grant funds. Sanchez confirmed using remaining partner grant funds would be appropriate.

Koch makes a motion to transfer \$613.35 from the Partner Grant line item to the CLEAR grant to cover the recommended projects. Roosth seconds. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Sanchez, Hart], Opposed-0)

Hart opened discussion on the additional \$10,000 transfer. After discussion, Koch makes a motion to recommend to the board transferring \$10,000 from the Partner Grant funds into the CLEAR grant program for the fourth round of applications. Roosth seconds.

Further Discussion:

The committee acknowledges the \$10,000 is separate from the \$613 coverage. Sanchez emphasized future caps may be needed. Hart noted the \$10,000 may not cover all applications but provides flexibility. Roosth confirmed reviewers will be notified that only \$10,000 is available if the board approves the transfer.

No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Koch, Roosth, Sanchez, Hart], Opposed-0)

Both recommendations will be presented to the board for discussion at the upcoming meeting.

## **9. Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates**

Roosth proposed changing the next committee meeting date from April 21st to April 13th. Hart suggested adjusting the meeting time to 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. instead of 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Consensus was reached on the new date and time. The committee will review meeting dates for FY 26–27 at the next meeting.

#### **10. Salmon Watch Report**


Zimmer reported that the Salmon Watch program spent \$12,194.85 this season, supporting 509 students in grades 4–12. Transportation and substitute teacher costs were included, with any expenses exceeding the grant award covered by the schools. There were 12 field trips, 18 student groups from 17 schools, and 26 volunteers who filled 86 shifts totaling 516 hours, saving the district \$17,951.64 using the national volunteer rate.

#### **11. Targeted Mailers**

Zimmer shared how targeted postcards are used to inform specific communities about conservation programs and events, such as SIA and Emerald Ash Borer outreach. The postcards provide clear information and encourage participation. The process includes identifying target audiences using GIS and program lists, designing the mailer, reviewing it with the team, getting supervisor approval, and coordinating printing either in-house or through Select Impressions based on cost and needs.

Sanchez explained that the budget covers postage, printing supplies, and professional printing. The group discussed using mailers to promote programs like Salmon Watch, guide people to the district website, and tailor messages to different audiences. Social media was mentioned as a supporting outreach tool, with attention to record-keeping requirements.

Adjourn: Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM

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**Marion Soil and Water Conservation District  
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief**

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**Agenda Item Name:** Committee Meeting Dates and CLEAR Grant Deadlines

**Date:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Agenda Item Brief:**

<b>CLEAR Deadline</b>	<b>E&amp;O Committee Meeting</b>
<b>8/25/2026</b>	<b>9/8/2026</b>
<b>10/27/2026</b>	<b>11/10/2026</b>
<b>1/26/2027</b>	<b>2/9/2027</b>
<b>3/30/2027</b>	<b>4/13/2027</b>

**Requested Action:** Meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for FY 2026–2027, in September, November, February, and April

**Proposed By:** Kassi Roosth



## Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Education & Outreach Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

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**Agenda Item Name:** District Education Grant Funding

**Date:** April 13, 2026

**Agenda Item Brief:** RE: Board Work session – Review Partner Grant Pilot Program

### Program Eligibility and Focus

Education recommendation to limit Partner Grants to adult education, and K-12 programs should continue through the CLEAR grant program to avoid overlap and maintain program integrity.

- Olson asked why it only referenced K-12 and doesn't include college, etc. Sanchez explained it was to clearly segment the interested groups. Plowhead expressed not being in favor of the recommendation due to equitability concerns. Hart recommended requiring all the K-12 educational applicants to the CLEAR grant and that an applicant cannot be awarded further funds after reaching a designated cap. Sanchez added that at the last Board's Budget meeting the CLEAR grant was raised to \$85,000 and the Partner Grant was potentially reduced to \$200,000.
- Sanchez recommended the Education Outreach Committee review and refine the recommendation regarding the distinction between CLEAR grants (K-12) and Partner Grants (adult/college), including eligibility and budgeting, then bring the recommendations back to the Board

### **Requested Action:**

Review and refine recommendations to clearly delineate eligibility and budget parameters between CLEAR grants (K-12) and Partner Grants (adult/college) and develop a proposed framework for implementation should the Partner Grant program be adopted as a standing program.

**Proposed By:** Marion SWCD Board, March 12, 2026

**Attachment:** Proposed recommendation for eligibility under CLEAR and Partner Grant

# Proposal for CLEAR Grant Eligibility

## Background

### **Definition of an Entity Per Grant Limitation Policy**

An entity is an individual or organization with a unique Taxpayer Identification Number, i.e. Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number. In the case of educational institutions, the entity is a school, not a school grade or school classroom.

### **Entities Eligible for CLEAR and/or Partner Grants**

**Applicant Entity must be a not-for-profit organization and have a unique Taxpayer Identification Number or Employer Identification Number.**

Tax-Exempt organizations are not for profit organizations, including government entities, that are exempt from some federal income taxes. They are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes, such as religious, charitable, scientific, educational, or public safety activities. They must also meet certain requirements set out in the Internal Revenue Code, such as Section 501(c)(3) or other sections. None of their earnings may benefit and private shareholder or individual.

Individuals, businesses, and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply directly for this funding and are encouraged to partner with an eligible organization to apply for this funding.

## Proposal

1. CLEAR Grants for education shall be limited to K-12 age groups.
2. Partner Grants for education shall be limited to education of audiences outside of the K-12 age groups.



## Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Education and Outreach Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

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**Agenda Item Name:** FY '25-26 CLEAR Grant Report

**Date:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Agenda Item Brief:**

### **Program Summary Report**

Across all programs, a total of 1,581 students and adult learners were reached through field-based learning, classroom instruction, and community-based education initiatives.

### **Financial Overview**

- Total Program Costs: \$37,043
- Transportation: \$8,070
- Substitute Teacher Costs: \$5,954
- Instructional Costs: \$13,962
- Supplies & Materials: \$9,057
- Total In-Kind Contributions: \$20,650

### **Cost Efficiency**

- Average Cost per Learner: \$23.43

### **Participant Groups**

- Schools Served: 7
- Community Garden: 1 (adult learners)
- Non-profits: 2 (students and adult learners)

### **Program Details**

#### **McKay High School**

30 students served; \$3,124 total. Funds supported two field trips to Hatfield Marine Science Center and Mt. St. Helens Institute. Costs included substitute teacher coverage, instructional fees, and transportation. (\$850 Instructional fees; \$1,974 substitute teacher; \$300 transportation)

#### **Redeemer Community Garden**

17 participants served; \$1,367 total. Funding supported compost bins and garden materials. In-kind contributions: \$250. (\$1367 supplies and materials)

**Miller Elementary School**

345 students served; \$3,010 total. Students participated in YEEP classroom presentations and a field trip to Willamette Mission State Park. Funding supported instruction and transportation. In-kind contributions: \$300. (\$1490 instructional fees; \$1520 transportation)

**Oregon Agriculture Trust**

50 producers served; \$4,500 total. Funding supported a soil workshop, including instructional costs and materials. In-kind contributions: \$3,490. (\$1,400 supplies and materials; \$3,100 instructional fees)

**North Salem High School**

300 students served; \$5,000 total. Funds supported substitute coverage and transportation for field-based learning at regional environmental and agricultural sites. (\$3,000 for substitute teacher costs; \$2,000 for transportation)

**Mary Eyre Elementary School**

120 students served; \$1,200 total. Four second-grade classrooms participated in classroom presentations and a discovery hike, supported by instructional, transportation, and materials funding. (\$50 for supplies and materials; \$600 for instructional fees; \$550 for transportation)

**The Jane Goodall Environmental School Middle School (JGEMS)**

99 students served; \$4,980 total. Funding supported substitute coverage, transportation to local parks, and school garden supplies. (\$980 substitute teacher costs; \$1900 transportation; \$2,100 supplies and materials)

**Salem Environmental Education**

400 students served; \$4,507 total. Funds supported outdoor school programming across multiple natural areas. In-kind contributions: \$6,135. (\$4,507 supplies and materials)

**Aumsville Elementary School**

120 students served; \$1,800 total. Funding supported transportation for field experiences to environmental education sites including the ODFW and OSU Wave Lab (\$1800 transportation)

**Community Roots – Program 1**

\$3,922 total. Funding supported instructional programming, including guest speakers and service-learning work parties. In-kind contributions: \$1,500. (*Student count not available.*) (\$3,922 instructional fees)

**Community Roots – Program 2**

100 students served; \$5,000 total. Funding supported outdoor education in a school garden, including instructional costs and materials. In-kind contributions: \$8,975. (\$1,000 supplies and materials; \$4,000 instructional fees)



# CLEAR GRANT FINAL REPORT SPOTLIGHTS

*Kassi Roosth  
Environmental Education Specialist  
4/13/26*



## McKay High School: Phillip Warner's Classes



1. Students at Mount Saint Helens
2. Student at Willow Lake Treatment Facility

Visited Hatfield Marine Science Center and Mount St. Helens Institute

Compared local watershed to coastal estuaries and studied ecosystem differences  
Learned about water quality, wetlands, sustainable land use, and restoration ecology  
Applied learning through end-of-year projects and volunteer stewardship activities

Visited Willow Lake Pollution Control and Geren Island Water Treatment Facilities

Learned how wastewater and drinking water are treated and improved  
Observed water quality improvements, ecological restoration, and wetland benefits  
Explored environmental careers; some students inspired toward water-related jobs

## McKay High School: Allie Esperanza Classes



Collage of students capturing and sharing photos illustrating land impacted by wildfires.

Studied Ansel Adams, National Parks, and sustainable land use

Visited Detroit Ranger Station and Willamette National Forest

Explored forest recovery after wildfires and ecosystem differences

Hands-on photography experiences, including drones and field documentation

Created artwork reflecting environmental learning, displayed in the school art show

Learned about public lands, conservation, wildfire prevention, and environmental stewardship

Provided outdoor experiences to diverse, low-income students, many visiting these areas for the first

Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District recognized as an Art Department supporter at the event attended by ~700 people

## The Oregon Garden Foundation



A collage of photos highlighting compost interpretive signs and demonstration techniques.

Replaced old composters with modern systems

Added 4 signs explaining composting types and benefits

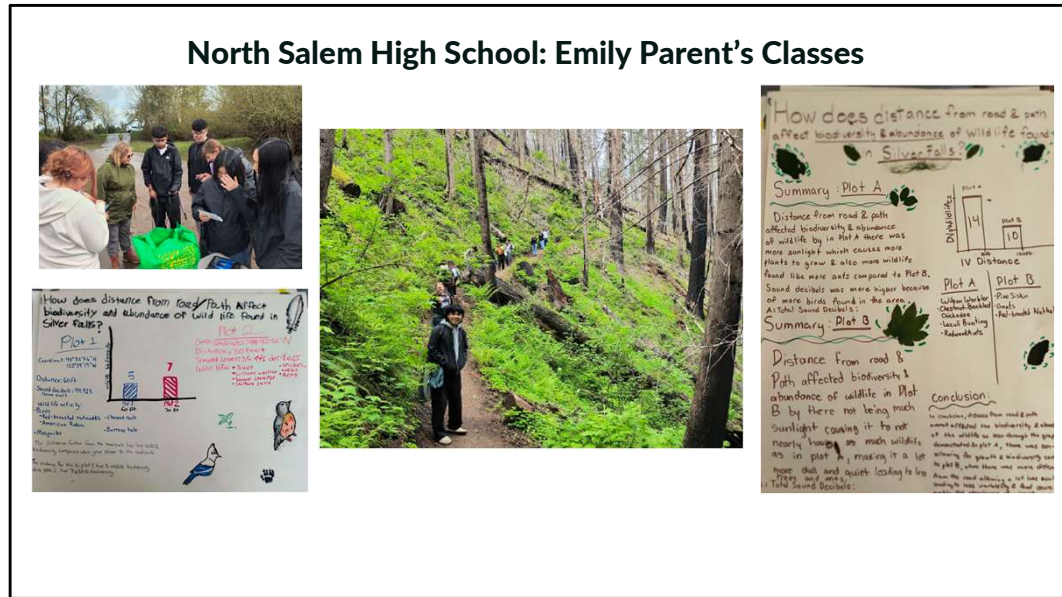
Staff actively use compost (food scraps, yard waste, reuse in garden)

Supports education: Earth Day, workshops, ~5,000 students yearly

Partners: Chemeketa Community College, Tulip Team, Highway Fuel, Sustainable Silverton, Marion Co Conservation District

Hosted hands-on worm composting activities and created educational worksheets

## North Salem High School: Emily Parent's Classes



A collage of photos showcasing students participating in field trips and presenting their scientific post

About 200 students participated in field trips

Visited Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, Willamette Mission State Park, The Oregon Garden, Youth Falls State Park, and Detroit Lake area

Learned about wildlife biodiversity, water quality, forestry, land conservation, and forest ecology

Conducted investigations, gathered data, and practiced land management skills

Assessed learning through activities, on-site observations, and student feedback



A collage of photos featuring 6 of the 8 educational signs installed around the Pringle Creek Community and Sustainable Living Center

Installed 8 educational signs throughout the community

Created a web-based walking tour map for self-guided visits

Signs highlight urban farming, pollinators, rain gardens, stream health, the Little Habitat Project, and other sustainable living practices

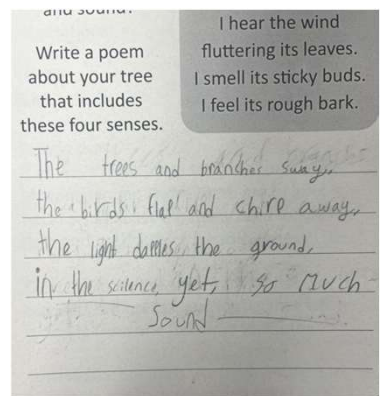
Information printed on paper for easy updates over time

Promoted tour to residents, nearby neighborhoods, and local partners

Positive community response; ~200 people participated in first 3 weeks

Integrates into future events, school programs, and partner activities

## Community Roots Outdoor School: Alyssa Burge



Photos: Students learning about wildlife identification and a photo of a sample poem..

Attended 2-day, 1-night coastal field study focused on environmental stewardship and coastal ecosystem health.  
Participated in tide-pool studies, Siletz craft projects, animal track identification, and water quality testing.  
Learned about watersheds, native plants, habitat loss, pollution impacts, and the water cycle.  
Students highly engaged and inspired; extended learning into classroom projects (dioramas, food chains, etc.).  
Strengthened passion for environmental stewardship and ocean/watershed health.

## Olde Moon Farm Camp



A collage of photos of students learning about plants and mason bee habitats.

Offered 1 week-long camp (16 youth) focused on land stewardship, native plants, pollinators, and soil  
Hands-on activities: planting 30 native species, clearing invasive plants, thinning overgrowth, and build houses

Educated on pollinators, fire for soil regeneration, and compost cycles

Students tracked pollinators, interacted with the farm ecosystem, and created take-home projects

Developed stewardship skills, ecological awareness, and hands-on sustainability experience



Thank you again for the opportunity to do meaningful work. I genuinely enjoy the programs and projects as the problem-solving and collaboration that come with them.

Questions?