

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Bonner County Extension Service - 4205 N Boyer Ave., Sandpoint ID 83864

Attendance

Board members: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Chris Elliott, BSWCD.

Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD.

Zoom: Jim Stevens, BSWCD; Bill Lilibridge, ISWCC; Michael (attendee did not identify self).

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

- A) **Agenda Amendments: [Idaho Code § 74-204(4)(b) and (c)]** Agenda changes include adding Executive Session. *Motion to approve updated agenda by Harry, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*
- B)
1. **March 2026 Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve March 2026 Meeting Minutes by Jeff, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.
 2. **Financials**
 - a. **March 2026:** Review of financials and discussion of reduced ISDA funds. *Motion to approve March 2026 financial reports by Jeff, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*
 - b. **CDA Books update:** Julie presented a proposal for implementing a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to formalize expectations between BSWCD and CDA Books. She provided a packet to the board and discussed her monthly meeting with Christi from CDA Books.
- C) **Agency/Grant & Guest Reports**
1. **AIS:** One inspector hired for Clark Fork station. Inspector training started today (2-day training). Discussion of what was covered on agenda, then how many inspectors will be at each station. The board discussed the closure of the Samuels inspection station by ISDA with only three weeks' notice, resulting in significant budget impacts and concerns about communication breakdown. Julie presented purchasing Square credit card readers to accept payments for AIS stickers at boat inspection stations and the office. *Motion to purchase three Square credit card readers by Jeff, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.*
 2. **Farm Bureau - Chris/Sarah:** Megan attended Portland conference for American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher program. She also attended the FFA state conference in Twin Falls, reaching over 500 high school students. Potato distribution event delivered 178 boxes from southern Idaho to Bonner County Food Bank. Farm Bureau is sponsoring 4 candidate forums (split into county and legislative races) with forum dates and locations: Blanchard April 22 and 24, Clark Fork April 29 and 30. Farm Tour is June 11th.
 3. **SWCC – Bill Lilibridge:** New employee Heather Pound will start next Monday and will be

stationed at the NRCS Sandpoint office.

4. **Lakes Commission:** Molly's Lakes Commission board meeting will be held on May 8th at the Ponderay Event Center. The AIS Summit will be held at the Priest River Event Center on April 13th and 14th.
5. **Pack River Watershed Council:** Currently closing out fiscal year end. Received a new MOU from Avista for the new fiscal year.
6. **Water Festival - Julie:** Over 400 students will attend from approximately 20 public and private schools. There will be two new Bear Tracks representatives from Fish and Game. Creating a commemorative sign listing sponsors and volunteers from the past 30 years. Planning Facebook posts and a Daily Bee article featuring former participants who entered natural resources careers.

D) District Business

1. **Seedling sale:** 40,000 trees still to sell across four districts, with this district accounting for 25,000. Received IDL grant MOU for reforestation projects. Grant program has generated 5 inquiries across the four districts for up to 19,000 seedlings. Facebook ads generated 6,400 views for the grant program and 15,000 views for general tree sale. Purchased pallet jack from PSP board funding to facilitate unloading from truck. Planting guides were created to include with each seedling purchase.
2. **ISDA/AIS:** There was discussion on the threat of mussels in the surrounding area with the loss of the Samuels inspection station. It was suggested to meet with the upper management of ISDA. Chair suggested a letter in place of a meeting due to the expense of a flight and hotel. Rick voiced a concern of the optics between Bonner vs Boundary. *Motion to approve of Sarah's flight and hotel to Boise to meet with ISDA management by Jeff, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.*
3. **Homesteader Conference:** Conference is scheduled for the last week of June (26th-27th) at Kootenai County Fairgrounds. District would set up a 10x20 tent display similar to the county fair booth. Last year it shared a tent with Kootenai and Benewah districts. Focus would be on tree sales and district programs. *Motion to approve of registration costs for Homesteader Conference on June 26th & 27th by Rick, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.*
4. **County Commissioner Meeting:** Sara asked for clarification on what to request from commissioners - Board agreed to maintain current \$25,000 funding level. Board wants to request available office space at the county building to use as matching funds for state reimbursement. She explained the state matches county funding up to 2:1 ratio, typically seeing 1.4-1.6 match. *Motion to schedule meeting with County Commissioners by Rick, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.*
5. **Policies & Procedures:** Sarah heard back ICRMP regarding BSWCD new policies and procedures, and the only changes were to FMLA updates (now required for governmental entities regardless of employee count) and changing "spouse" to "partner" terminology. *Motion to approve policies & procedures update by Jeff, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*

E) District Update

1. **BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:**

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Open Meeting Law training via Zoom for districts on April 15th by IDEA's quarterly meeting.

Natural Resource Camp Scholarship - application and flyer created, put on website, and will send to all schools in Bonner County that meet the eligibility requirements of 12-16 yrs old.

Grants - Sarah mentioned submitting two 319 grant applications (John Cock project and Priest River project). 319 funding has a 2-3 year cycle from submission to actual funding. Stated deadline is July 15.

Executive Session **Idaho Code § 74-206** has been cancelled by Chair.

Motion to adjourn at 3:12 pm by Harry, seconded by Rick.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

Dale Jane Stone
District Supervisor Signature

MAY 5, 2026
Date