## **Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District**

# Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: 1224 Washington Ave ste 101, Sandpoint, ID \* Zoom Teleconference

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Harry Menser, BSWCD Cindy Lewis, NRCS Rick Watt, BSWCD Jeff Connolly, BSWCD Austin Terrell, Gov. OSC Brad Bluemer, BSWCD Jim Stevens, BSWCD Gail Bolin, Water Festival

Harry Menser, BSWCD Sarah Garcia, BSWCD

Zoom Attendees: Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Devin Fieldings, IASCD, Bob Flagor, KSSWCD; Jessica Erickson,

**PRWC** 

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

### Call to Order

Introductions were made of all attendees/

Approval of Minutes: Harry moved, seconded by Rick to approve the January Minutes. the motion

Financial Reports: Brad moved, seconded by Rick to approve the December 2022 financials the motion

2023 Mileage Rate: Harry moved, seconded by Rick to adopt the 2023 GSA mileage rate of \$0.655. the motion carried

**Board Member Appointment:** Jeff Connolly provided a brief bio of himself as a native with 40 years in the logging industry, recently served two terms as County Commissioner, and is currently the interim Priest River Mayor. Rick moved, seconded by Brad to appoint Jeff Connolly to the vacant supervisor position the motion carried.

### AGENCY REPORTS

PRWC: Jessica updated the board on the recent PRWC newsletter that went out. She also provided information on the Pack River Delta Phase II project anticipated to begin in November 2023. The Forest Service road that was washed out on Grouse creek is expected to be routed out of the flood plain this year and the floodplain restoration will begin in 2024. Jessica participated in Redd survey this fall there were 8 Redds found in Hell Roaring 2 Bull trout adults which was a positive sign based on the removal of an artificial weir 2007 that was a project the district participated in. Work continues on the native salmonoid with all projects now identified & prioritized. She will be attending a stream restoration workshop March 7th-9th.

NRCS: Cindy informed the board that her focus had been on a water control replacement project in Boundary much of last month. EQIP ranking will be finalized February 17th. She highlighted a few potential partner projects. The Resource Con. Detail will be filled by Kyle Lundsford starting 2/12 for 120days and at this time it will be mostly completed via telework. The permanent RC position will be flown in February. The recent grad has accepted the soil con. Position and working to get relocation sorted out. Expecting up to 2 more soil con positions for our area to be flown in the next year.

Water Festival: Gail provided a brief overview of the Water festival for guests not familiar with the event. For the May 2023 event expecting approximately 400 5th graders. Discussion of signage and bandana needs was had & Gail asked Sarah to proceed with purchasing the items. Bear Aware will be the lunch show this year.

ISWCC: Bill notified the Board that next week would be Katies final week as she had accepted another position. The position will be posted soon. Currently expecting another \$5 million in WQPA monies so encouraged to begin thinking about projects that would qualify.

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<u>Governor's Office of Species Conservation:</u> Austin updated the board on the work he has been focusing on this month. Grizzlies remain a hot topic, working with partners based on bear field season. Last years Bonners Ferry conflicts were managed reactively hoping for a more proactive approach in Bonner county with a special focus in Priest Lake area.

### **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

<u>Legislative Day/ Social:</u> Sarah provided images of the display she made for the legislative days as well as discussed, the legislators that she spoke with related to the Watercraft inspection stations. The board also reviewed physical copies of the AIS brochure that she had created for the event.

<u>IASCD President Introduction</u>: Devin Fielding's introduced himself to the board and gave a brief bio of his work as a farmer, beef feedlot owner, Chair of the North Bingham board and the newly elected ISDA president. Devin highlighted his goals for all Districts to be fairly and accurately represented by the association. He also highlighted the success of the legislative social and importance of connecting with legislators as there was a 50% turnover this year.

AIS Watercraft Stations: The Board discussed the ongoing concerns related to ISDA's wage limits on the MOU. After discussion Rick moved, seconded by Harry to have Sarah draft a letter to ISDA requesting that they provide an answer to the wage question by the March board meeting so that the board could make a decision with the success of the program foremost. *the motion carried*.

Farm Tour: Harry updated the Board on the 2023 farm tour planning to date. This will be the first tour since 2019 and will be focused in the Priest River /Laclede area. Discussion was held and the Steven's property may potentially be one of the stops on the tour.

Annual Plan of Work: Sarah reminded the Board that the 5yr plan that had been updated during the November workshop would be due to the commission by the end of March.

<u>PSP/Seedling Sale Update:</u> Currently have about 70% sold. Will be posting a Facebook ad later this month announcing the remaining available seedlings predominately Western White Pine & Western Larch.

### **Grant Updates:**

Colburn Creek – Blasko/Woods: The final grant reports were submitted and the final invoice had been approved and sent for payment by DEQ.

**Source Water Protection Grant:** Sarah notified the Board that we had been award the Source Water Protection grant that had been submitted last fall. She was waiting for the subgrant agreement documents and then would proceed with this grant.

**Urban Ag Grant:** Sarah informed the Board of the NACD/NRCS Urban Ag development grant. The grant would allow \$10,000 for the development of an urban ag project that could than apply for the \$60,000 implementation grant in 2024. There was discussion of what type of projects could be developed as well as discussion that Sarah had already spoken with the Jen Jensen of the extension office, and she is willing to partner with the district. Jeff moved, seconded by Rick to approve Sarah moving forward with applying for the Urban Ag grant. *the motion carried*.

<u>District Report:</u> Sarah reminded the board that she would be leaving at the end of the week to attend the NACD conference in New Orleans and would be gone for the following week. She highlighted some of the breakout sessions she anticipated attending. The Forestry Contest planning is in full effect and preregistration & donation request letters have gone out with approximately \$3,200 in donations received to date. Sarah also updated the Board on the recent 3 day training she completed for the classroom portion for Watercraft Inspector I & II through the Pacific Marine states.

Brad moved, seconded by Harry the motion	to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.
(C)	
District Supervisor Signature	3/7/23
District Supervisor Signature	Date

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