

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 3 2023  
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave Ste. 101, Sandpoint, ID \* Zoom Teleconference

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### Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Brad Bluemer, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD, Jim Stevens, BSWCD, Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC, Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Austin Terrell, GOSC; Zoom Attendees: Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Jen Jensen, U of I Extension

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

### Call to Order

**Approval of Minutes:** Harry moved, seconded by Brad to approve the September Minutes. *the motion carried.*

**Financial Reports:** Brad moved, seconded by Jeff to approve the August 2023 financial reports, *the motion carried.* Sarah informed the board that the Districts audit had officially begun on Monday and was expected to be completed within 6 weeks.

### AGENCY REPORTS

**NRCS:** Cindy updated on the office reorganization that would begin in the coming weeks. She also informed the board of the two new hires (Cherese Bentley and Claire....) who would begin Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>. Cindy also reviewed the LWG ranking criteria and discussed possibly moving high tunnels to their own categories.

**Idaho SWC.** – Bill updated the board that there had been a flurry of activity and the in-water work had been completed prior to the close of the work period. There was extensive willow planting the districts jets stinger was used. Contractors are finishing up the projects. Jenna provided updates from Delwyne.

**Gov. of Species Conservation:** The Boundary County Bear Fair was a success pressed approximately 100 gallons of cider with over 300 people in attendance in spite of the weather. On September 29<sup>th</sup> the State of Idaho filed a federal lawsuit to delist grizzlies in the lower 48. Austin informed the board that he had been appointed to the Panhandle Forest Collaboratives Bear Subcommittee.

**U of I Extension Office:** Jen informed the board that the “Living on the land program.” Has been postponed to Jan-March. U of I Extension will be partnering with the library on future gardening and composting classes.

### DISTRICT BUSINESS

**Boat Stations:** The District discussed the challenges and limitations related to the stations remaining open with the current AIS threat from the detection in the Snake River in Twin Falls. The Persi limitations made it impossible to pursue due to the costs. Brad moved, seconded by Rick for Sarah to pursue having the PERSI R130 8-month seasonal employee exemption form updated to reflect Conservation Districts being recognized as qualified employer. *the motion carried.*

**Montana Conference:** Sarah presented the agenda for the Legislative Council on River Governance taking place in Whitefish Montana. Discussion was held on whether attendance would be valuable based on the Columbia River Treaty & AIS topics heavily featured in the agenda. Jeff moved, seconded by Rick for Sarah to attend on the Boards behalf, *the motion carried.*

**Logo Marketing:** The board discussed the importance of branding the Districts materials and utilizing the new logo to do so. Harry moved, seconded by Rick to approve Sarah to purchase logo'd car magnets as well as professional apparel and jacket for her for utilization in public outreach events, *the motion carried.*

*All services of the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to national origin, race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Auxiliary aides or services for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please call 263-5310 five (5) days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made.*

