

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, July 7, 2026  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Place:** 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220, Sandpoint ID 83864



### Attendance

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

**Others:** Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Tom Fleeer, BSWCD; Heather Pound, ISWCC; Megan Parnell, Farm Bureau; Jen Jensen, U of I

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

#### 1. **June 2026 Meeting Minutes**

*Motion to approve June 2026 Meeting Minutes by Rick, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.*

#### 2. **Financials**

- a. *Motion to approve May 2026 financial reports by Rick, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.*
- b. *Motion to approve & submit 2026 financial Match report by Jeff, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.*

### **B) Agency/Grant & Guest Reports**

1. **AIS- Tom Fleeer:** A dead mussel was found at the Pendelton Reservoir, suspected to have fallen off of something but the waterbody will be tested for the next 5 years to be sure. Over 6,000 boats have been inspected so far this year, which is an increase of 200+ over last year for the 2 stations. Have completed 8 hot washes to date from high-risk waterways so far, no detections at our stations. There were over 1200 boats inspected over 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. We still have no sheriff support as they state they had not yet received an agreement from the Dept. of Ag. Sites are tracking drive-by's as they are able with an average of more than 35 boats a week bypassing each of the stations. Over 2,000 stickers sold to date with 20% of sales being credit card with no push back for the user fee by the consumers. We lost a 6yr returning employee as he received an offer for \$25/hr. with benefits through Walmart, he will be replaced with 2 new employees.
2. **SWCC – Heather Pound:** Heather provided a brief update regarding the transition of the Commission from ISDA to IDWR. IDWR/ISWCC group has met 3x to try to draft an mou to outline how the entities work together. More will be discussed at the July 16<sup>th</sup> ISWCC meeting.
3. **Farm Bureau-Megan Parnell:** Megan provided an update on the Farm Bureau Resolutions committee meeting and the process. Indicated that Bonner County FB will host their local resolution committee the first week of August. Megan and Chris discussed being busy with the Ag Mac trailer and Maggie the cow presentations they anticipate having Maggie the cow at Ponderay Days and the upcoming October 3<sup>rd</sup> grade event at the Fairgrounds.
4. **U of I Extension- Jennifer Jensen:** Jen updated the board that although it was a smaller group the Bonner County Farm tour was successful but sadly likely the last as it has become increasingly difficult to get participating farms and attendance has declined and moved away from the original intent to connect local government and business leadership to connect with

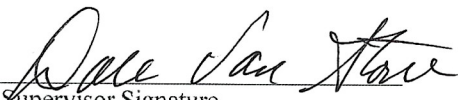
agriculture producers. Jen is assisting with a Clark Fork River & Farm tour out of Montana that participants bike between the tour locations along the Clark Fork river on August 1st. Idaho Master gardeners are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this summer with Bonner County's chapter about a decade behind. There will be a harvesting & preserving class taking place July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**C) District Business**

1. **Homesteader Conference Report:** Sarah provided the board with a brief overview of the event, the amount of engagement from the public, and highlights including a school board member from New Meadows, Idaho stopping to discuss their team's 1<sup>st</sup> time experience at the Idaho State Forestry Contest.
2. **319 Projects:** Sarah and Heather discussed with the board the 4 pending 319 grant opportunities. This included any potential challenges of the project. Two of the grants are await final answers from the landowner as to whether they would like to move forward after the initial owner cost estimates were provided. The grants must be submitted by July 17<sup>th</sup>, Sarah and Heather will be working to finalize this week.

- D) District Updates:** Sarah provided updates on her meeting CDA Books to ensure that both parties had a clearer understanding of the needs as well as discussed general district operations over the past month including her recent trip to Boise for IASCD & IDEA meetings. The District is partnering closely with U of I to present to their faculty attending a retreat at SOAC, with a presentation and tour regarding the POSFI kitchen and site visit to the Upper Pack River project. Sarah attended the BoCC meeting prior to the district meeting as the request for office space was on the agenda, she provided an overview of the meeting and that the county attorney present indicated he did not see an legal reason that would prohibit them approving our usage of the space as well as the support that we received from Jason Topp the director of County Road & Bridge. Discussion was also had regarding the upcoming Beaver co-existence training that we are assisting to present with Fish & Wildlife services and Beavers NW, August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn at 2:35pm by Jeff, seconded by Rick.

  
District Supervisor Signature

08/07/20  
Date