

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: Bonner County UI Extension Office (4205 N. Boyer Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864)* Zoom Teleconference

Attendance:

Board members: Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Harry Mesner, BSWCD; Chris Elliot, BSWCD; Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD

Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD; Tom Flear, BSWCD; Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC; Austin Terrell, Project Manager, Terrestrial Species Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 PM by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

Call to Order 1:04 PM

- **Action Item:** July 2024 Board meeting minutes Motion to approve: Harry, Second: Jeff. Motion Carried.
- **Action Item:** Financial reports. Motion to Approve: Rick, Second: Jeff. Motion Carried
- **Action Item:** FY24 Audit engagement letter. Motion to accept the proposal from Hoover CPA to complete the FY24 audit. Second Rick, Motion Carried.
- **Action Item:** Motion to pay \$1,800.00 IASCD Dues: Harry, Seconded by Rick. Motion Carried
- **Action Item:** 2024 Land & Soil Evaluation Event. Motion to give a \$75 Donation made by Harry, seconded by Rick. Motion Carried
- **Action Item:** I See Idaho. Rick moved, seconded by Harry to donate \$100 to the event. Motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

1. **U of I** – Jen Jensen: Jen updated the board that they are in full Fair mode with the event taking place next week. Currently they are working on hiring an Ag Educator in the Bonners Ferry Extension office and they are in the final stages of hiring for the organic Ag specialists for the Organic Ag center in Sandpoint.
2. **SWC Report** - Jenna Ditzel: George Hintz has filled the vacancy at the commission left by Loretta's lateral move to the WQPA administrator and TMDL oversight. 319 Basin Area Group (BAG) meeting to be held on Oct. 17th. Financial match due August 16th.
3. **Governor's Office**-Austin Terrell: Austin updated the board that he had spent time in central Idaho completing wolf conflict work with producers. There is one active bear in Boundary County that has broken into grain bins. Electric fence and electrified unwelcome mat have been installed to deter return bear moved to another property, but that landowner is not interested in working with IDFG/OSC. Thanks to generous donation from the Safari Club Austin will be picking up a customized new bear education trailer. He will be attending the Boundary County Fair this week. Have been working with Priest Lake State Park to get Bear Aware magnets in all cabins. Bear Fair will take place 9/28 at the Boundary County fairgrounds from 12-4pm
4. **AIS/Boat Stations**- Tom Flear: Better weather has increased our boater traffic, but we are still behind YOY on sticker sales. Last week there was a Whaler Boat convention on Priest Lake and Albeni inspected over 100 boats. The dust abatement treatment at Clark Fork has been completed and we are anticipating delivery of a new hot wash from ISDA.

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.

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DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Sarah reminded the group that Jeff, Harry, and Rick's three seats were open for the November election. Election documents must be submitted by the end of the month.
2. **Action Item:** Rick moved; Harry seconded motion to hire Julie Lakatos as the Districts administrative assistant effective 7/29/24. Motion carried.
3. **Action Item:** RBDG: Jeff moved; Chris seconded motion for Sarah to purchase the equipment outlined in the grant and any others identified by the partners that fit within the parameters of the funding as needed. Motion carried.
4. **Action Item:** The board reviewed a memo to Umpqua Banking outlining how they would like the Umpqua Checking accounts to be set up for both the Districts operating account as well as establishing the signatory authority of the existing District Board members and their PSP representative and associate board member John Gaddess. Harry moved, seconded by Rick to approve this structure and memo. Motion carried. Sarah presented her recommendations for the 2026 seedling counts by species as reflected below. Jeff moved, seconded by Chris to adopt the proposed numbers as the Districts 2026 seedling order. Motion carried.

<i>Ponderosa</i>	<i>16,470</i>	<i>Doug Fir</i>	<i>2,430</i>
<i>White Pine</i>	<i>18,900</i>	<i>Western Red Cedar</i>	<i>1,620</i>
<i>Western Larch</i>	<i>48,600</i>	<i>Spruce</i>	<i>1,080</i>
<i>Lodgepole</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>89,370</i>

5. Fair booth was discussed, and the admin team will be sending out an email to all board members with a booth schedule for them to participate.

DISTRICT UPDATES

BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:

- Grant Updates:
 - Rural Development: grant documents have been completed working with POSFI to finalize the equipment order.
 - Upper Pack River 319: Grant was submitted and will begin working on the presentation.
 - Baldy Mountain Rd 319: We were not able to secure match funding for this grant, the app is on hold until next year.
 - Urban Ag grant: Waiting to hear back of the \$10,000 grant.

Local Work Group – Board discussed dates/times & locations of where to host the LWG in October. SOAC is very limited in their availability. Admins will review local options and have them ready to present to the Board at the September Board meeting.

Harry moved, seconded by Rick to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

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