

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

## Meeting Minutes



**Date:** Tuesday August 4, 26  
**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,

**Others:** Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Tom Flee, BSWCD; Heather Pound, ISWCC; Megan Parnell, Farm Bureau; Cindy Lewis, NRCS

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

#### 1. **July 2026 Meeting Minutes**

*Correction was noted that the agenda reflected a typo of June vs July minutes. Motion to approve July 2026 Meeting Minutes by Harry, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*

#### 2. **Financials**

- a. *Motion to approve June 2026 financial reports by Rick, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.*
- b. *Motion to approve the Audit engagement letter from Hoover CPA Rick, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.*

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

1. **AIS- Tom Flee:** Over 9,200 watercrafts inspected, 3,500 stickers sold to date with approximately 30% more of these done through credit card sales. 4 employees have been lost and replaced in the past month at the Clark Fork station 3 out of 4 left for higher paying positions elsewhere. At this time, we still do not have law enforcement support and seeing 10-15 driveby's daily.
2. **SWCC – Heather Pound:** Heather provided a brief update on the IDWR/ISWCC merger. A draft MOU has been posted to the commission website and there is a public comment period. IDWR/ISWCC will host a joint meeting in August.
3. **Farm Bureau-Megan Parnell:** Megan reminded the Board that the Farm Bureau Resolutions committee meeting for Bonner County will be held Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held regarding potential presentation of AIS issue to the Farm Bureau Board. Farm Bureau recently completed a video featuring Harry Menser and Gemberly products. The Farm Bureau 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip at the fairgrounds will be held October 21<sup>st</sup> and Bonner SWCD is being asked to host a station.
4. **NRCS – Cindy Lewis:** Cindy updated the Board that 30% of eligible EQIP contracts for Team 1 have been funded to date. Eligible contracts not funded will be deferred to 2027 as long as they complete required documentation. IDL is applying for regional conservation partnership program that is very similar to EQIP and will provide fuel breaks along all major highways.
5. **Water Festival – Gail Bolin:** Gail updated the Board that the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Water Festival was successful! There were 400 students & more than 40 volunteers. Gail displayed the Daily Bee Thank you ad as well as highlighted the Daily Bee & Sandpoint Reader articles on the event. The post tests showed a 45.9% knowledge increase. Gail will complete the Avista mid

year & Equinox reports. Gails home has sold and she will be relocating to Missouri although the timeline is not yet finalized. Gail is committed to a smooth transition to a new coordinator. McKinley Lesley the new Park Ranger at Riley Creek Campground is willing to assist with in class presentations.

**C) District Business**

1. **Bonner County Fair:** Sarah reminded the Board of the upcoming Bonner County Fair and discussion was held regarding booth location, design, and schedule coverage. Multiple board members provided commitment to man the booth throughout the fair.
2. **Beaver Coexistence Training:** The board was updated on the timeline & materials to be covered at the upcoming Beaver coexistence training that BSWCD is cohosting with FWS utilizing final grant funds. The event will begin on Monday afternoon 8/17 with in class training and then a hands on demo at Bismark Meadows on Tuesday followed by a public presentation at the Priest River Library
3. **IASCD Conference:** The IASCD Conference will be held at the University Inn in Moscow on November 17-19<sup>th</sup>, discussion was held and board members were encouraged to plan to attend though no public registration has been released. Sarah will likely need to arrive on Monday evening to address her IDEA responsibilities. Jeff provided context regarding the presented AIS Resolution and the goal of presenting this to the membership as well as the process for presenting a resolution at conference. Rick moved seconded by Chris to sponsor the AIS Resolution for IASCD membership review at November Conference. *Motion carried.*

- D) District Updates:** Sarah provided an overview of the work completed during July with a focus on the two 319 grant submissions. Two of the four original grants discussed in June were cancelled by the landowners prior to submission. Discussion turned to the need for additional personnel support, as was identified during budget discussions there is a capacity for the District to bring on a part time role at 16-18hrs a week. Harry moved, seconded by Jeff for Sarah to post the presented job description to job platforms and begin the hiring process for a targeted onboarding of early September. The motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 2:40pm by Harry, seconded by Rick.

Nale Van Stone  
District Supervisor Signature

09/01/26  
Date