

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 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; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD  
Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Kyle Lundsford, NRCS; Owen Turner, NRCS; Austin Terrel, GOSC  
Zoom: Jim Stevens, BSWCD; Chase Youngdahl, Weed Dept.; Nic Zurfluh, ISDA

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

### Call to Order

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

**Financial Reports:** Rick moved, seconded by Jeff to approve Sarah's request to postpone the February 2023 financial review due to time constraints *the motion carried.*

### AGENCY REPORTS

**NRCS:** Cindy introduced Owen Turner, new soil conservationist and Georgia Kriebs, the TA position from Kootenai. Cindy also notified the board that Kyle Lundsford had been selected for the Resource Con position. An overview of EQIP to date for Team 1 was given. Additional funds were asked for 21 apps. Local work group will need to be scheduled for early fall. Kyle will be attending the Division Meeting on Cindy's behalf.

**Gov. Office of Species Conservation:** Austin updated the Board that the wolf/livestock intervention program had disbursed \$44,000 to 14 small producers to help protect livestock. \$94,000 was reimbursed to producers in Idaho in 2022 for the 206 confirmed wolf predations. The state petition to delist grizzly bears in Idaho was denied. Idaho's petition to delist Grizzlies as a whole vs state by state. This is likely to be an ongoing conversation. Austin has been working on Bear Aware brochure as well as conversations with Boundary to approve carcass disposal at the landfill to reduce attraction to bears.

**Bonner County Weed Dept.** -Chase updated the Board on work he has been completing. There will be an Invasive weeds seminar on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sandpoint Organic Ag. He also informed the Board about 2 weed rapid responses in our county (Fragmites & salt cedar) it is suspected that these were transported as seeds on vehicles. Chase and counterparts will be leading the weed station at the Forestry contest. The Selkirk cooperative agreement MOU is up for renewal.

### DISTRICT BUSINESS

**Tree Seedling Report:** Sarah thanked the board members who attended the seedling unload & public pickup day last week. The delivery and customer pickup went smooth overall although there were some hiccups. There is currently some Western Larch & White Pine still available. Ad's have been posted & parking lot sale is planned for Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Funding Request Bonner County:** Sarah notified the Board that she has scheduled a meeting with Bonner County commissioners to discuss funding. Discussion was had by the board about what request to make. Funding request amount will be determined at the May meeting.

**Round Lake Field Trip:** Sarah reminded the board about the upcoming Round Lake Field trips on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed how the planning was going as well as the need for Board volunteers to take the lead on the May 10<sup>th</sup> field trip as Sarah will not be able to be present as she needs to be at the Forestry Contest setup that day.

**Forestry Contest:** Sarah provided an update on the Forestry Contest planning. Registration deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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**Homesteading conference:** Sarah provided information to the Board about the upcoming Homesteading conference in Kootenai County this summer. Discussion was had as to what the intent of the District attending as well as what the time/financial commitment would be for the District. The Board determined a motion wasn't needed but Sarah could work with Kootenai to prepare the display as long as it doesn't interfere with other District projects.

**ISDA MOU:** Nic presented the changes to the MOU that ISDA is proposing. Funding would increase approximately 8% with \$1.20/hr. raise for all roles, as well as funds available for background checks & Advertising. The Board discussed if the District could move forward with the very short turn around for getting stations up & running. Jeff moved, seconded by Rick to approve the ISDA AIS Watercraft Inspection Stations MOU. the motion carried.

**Division Meeting:** Sarah reminded the Board of the upcoming Division Meeting to be held at Templins in Post Falls on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board reviewed the proposed agenda.

### **Grant Updates:**

**Source Water Protection Grant:** The District has received the Subaward documents, and they have been executed. This grant project will get underway after the Forestry Contest & Water Festival.

**NRCS Pilot Program – Composting:** Sarah informed the Board about the NRCS Composting Pilot Program. Sarah has met with Bob Howard, Director, and Melissa Gault, Operating Manager. The County also invited Sarah to present the grant idea and potential at their April 10<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting with the County Commissioners. The county is onboard, and Sarah will be working with the site supervisor to determine styles & locations for composting.

**District Report:** Sarah informed the board that she has postponed pursuing additional grants at this time as the addition of the Boat station MOU along with the Districts annual events and the new fishing field trips have taken over her full focus.

Rick moved, seconded by Harry the motion to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

 5/2/23  
District Supervisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

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