

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 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; Jim Stevens, BSWCD;  
Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Austin Terrel, GOSC  
Zoom: Bill Lillibridge, ISSWC

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

### Call to Order

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

**Financial Reports:** Brad moved, seconded by Rick to approve the February and March 2023 financial reports, *the motion carried.* Harry moved and Brad seconded a motion to provide a Thank You Gift Card for the Delay family for the use of their barn for the seedling sale, *the motion carried.*

### AGENCY REPORTS

**NRCS:** Cindy notified the group that EQIP preapproval contracts were out for signatures and the team is busy. Currently 120 active contracts for Bonner & Boundary County team. State funds 30-40% of contracts annually currently Team 1 is funding about 90% of our contracts, with more contracts per planner than anywhere else in the state. Cindy updated the Board that Kyle Lundsford would officially become the resource conservationist in mid-July at which time Cindy will move her main office to Bonners Ferry. A post falls native was offered one of the two soil con positions for Sandpoint, second position has been flown. Due to limited parking Cindy requested that the District vehicle be parked off site especially during the winter months. Cindy also notified the Board that she would be touching base with Sarah on a potential WQPA project.

**Gov. Office of Species Conservation:** Austin updated the Board that grizzly bears are officially out with sign and sightings but 0 conflicts to date, there had already been conflict by this time last year. Austin was a part of the Bear Aware education outreach event at the Boundary Farmers Market, and they interacted with over 250 people. In the coming days Austin will be assisting with Water Festival setup as well as at the Idaho State Forestry Contest. Currently working on Bear info stickers as part of public outreach efforts.

**Idaho SWC.** -Bill updated the Board that they had completed interviews, an offer has been made with a strong secondary candidate as backup. The state is working to reclass the unfilled engineer position to a soil conservation who will have some engineer tech duties. This is in response to the national shortage of engineers. Bill indicated he would be available to work with Sarah & Cindy on a potential WQPA grant.

**Water Festival:** Gail sent an email to the board informing them that she was on track to present the Water Festival with set up May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### DISTRICT BUSINESS

**Funding Meeting with County Commissioners:** Sarah informed the board that she had secured a meeting with the county commissioners for Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am. The Board discussed the Districts funding needs for the upcoming fiscal year. Harry moved, seconded by Brad to request \$19,500.00 from the Bonner County Commissioners for FY24. *the motion carried.*

**Seedling Program/PSP Meeting:** Sarah updated the Board on the recent PSP meeting that took place after the Division Meeting. All seedlings were sold. Future adjustments may be needed to the Districts seedling order to prevent large overages.

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**Boat Stations:** The group reviewed the written report provided by Glenn Kibbey on station opening & hiring. Sarah informed the Board of the sad unexpected loss of longtime inspector Chris Courser, who had worked our Samuels location for several seasons and had been anticipating returning for the season. The District will send flowers for his celebration of life expected to take place this summer.

**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. Brad, Harry & Dale indicated they would all be able to assist.

**Forestry Contest:** Sarah provided an update on the Forestry Contest planning. Sarah reminded the Board that a member of the Board will need to be present to accept the Districts Honorary Chair award along with the other members of the FC steering committee. Currently over 300 contestants expected.

**NRCS Pilot Program – Composting:** Sarah updated the Board about the April 10<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting with the County Commissioners. In addition, Sarah met with KLT, east Bonner county garden manager-seed librarian and Gardens for health collaborative members. The grant is well supported, and once Sarah gets through Forestry Contest & Water Festival this will be her main focus until the grant is submitted.

**Farm Tour:** Harry updated the Board on the planning for the 2023 Farm Tour including a recent planning meeting. The west side of our county will be the focus this year. Additional discussion was had related to the priest river Forestry Expo that will also take place at Jim Stevens property on May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Weed MOU:** The Board discussed the Selkirk Cooperative Weed MOU received from Chase Youngdahl. Brad moved, seconded by Rick to execute the MOU as presented. *the motion carried.*

### **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.

**District Report:** Sarah only had basic information and updates to relay as the agenda had already reflected what she had been working on throughout the previous period.

Rick moved, seconded by Harry the motion to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

  
District Supervisor Signature

6/6/2023

Date

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