

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

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

Attendance:

Board members: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD;

Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Georja Kriebs, BSWCD; Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC; Chris Elliott; Tom Fleer, Boat Station Manager; Jennifer Jensen, UI Extension;

Zoom Attendees:

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

Call to Order 1:00 PM

1. **Action Item: March 2024 Minutes**

Motioned to approve March meeting minutes by: Jeff

Second by: Rick

Motion carried

2. **Action Item: Financial Reports**

Motioned to approve Feb. financial report by: Harry

Second by: Rick

Motion carried

3. **Action Item: Amended agenda.**

Motioned to amend agenda by: Jeff

Second by: Rick

Motion carried

AGENCY REPORTS

1. **NRCS Report – Cindy Lewis:** 101 approved contracts, with a total of 120-130 contracts so far this year. Cultural Resource Surveys are not going to hold up contracting. August is Quality Assurance Review. Chet is not coming. NRCS still planning on helping with Water Festival and Forestry Contest.
2. **UI Extension – Jennifer Jensen:** Living on the Land class has 2 more sessions left, with 11 people in the class. Will be offering again and expand on the course. Looking at changing curriculum to focus on the now and here. Advanced Market Garden class coming up. Farm tour 6/13/2024- Parnell Ranch, PJT and Grumping chicken.
3. **Water Festival – May 15th & 16th:** Still moving forward, started in class sessions.
4. **SWC Report – Jenna Ditzel:** Legislative wrap up, bill included 3% employee comp + \$75,400 + \$1 Million WQPA. WQPA \$75,000 limit with a 35% match.
5. **AIS/Boat Stations – Tom Fleer:** Station Manager started March 20. Recruitment began for station supervisor in Clark Fork and 4 to 6 inspectors at all stations. Sarah created Indeed account for both positions and flyers were put up in Clark Fork, Sandpoint and Bonner Ferry. Most new hires were from Indeed advertisement and 1 came from flyers. Two station supervisors returning from last year, assisted with interviews which were held on March 27 and again on April 3 and 4. We conducted 4 supervisor interviews and hired returning employee Averell Lucas as Supervisor at the Clark Fork Station. Conducted 17 interviews for boat inspector and hired 2 individuals at Clark Fork, 1 at Albeni and 3 at Samuels. 17 employees returned from last year. A total of 23 employees at the stations. ISDA held a two-day training for our staff April 8 and 9. The local ISDA Specialist and Program Manager are new in these positions. They have a lot of experience

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working at inspection stations and seem to be very willing to help with Station needs and follow-up training. Clark Fork Station opened on April 11. They have inspected over 100 boats since opening day. 1 with weeds on craft; no hot wash or high risk at this time. Samuels and ALbeni stations will open on April 25. We did have a few new employees leave do to personal issues, so we will be in the hiring process again.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. *Action Item:* Funding Request Letter to the county- meeting request & agenda items
Motioned to write letter and request for \$18,000.00 by: Jeff Second by: Harry Motion carried

2. Tree Seedling report: 1 box of White Pine left, we had several molded Red Cedar. All trees will be grown by K&C moving forward.
3. Division I Meeting – *Thursday April 18th Sandpoint Community Hall*
4. *Action Item:* Homesteading Conference June 28th & 29th
Motioned to allow staff to attend and/or allow KSSWCD to utilize our outreach materials by: Harry Second by: Jeff Motion carried

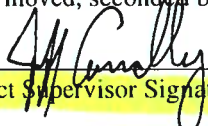
5. *Action Item:* Full Time Administrative Assistant Position
Motioned to make the Administrative Assistant Position full immediately by: Rick Second by: Harry Motion carried

DISTRICT UPDATES

BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:

- Grant Updates
 - NACD Urban Planning Grant, 1 year, will help to identify and improve school gardens
 - 319 for the Baldy Mountain Rd.
 - Finishing up the Source Water Grant
- Forestry Contest: Slower start this year with a delay in communication. Registration is down by 60 kids at this time, 50% of normally donations have been received. Next Steering Committee meeting will be on the 23rd at the IDL Office.
- Fishing Field trips: IFG not doing a station but was asked to help out on May 14th and 28th.
- S1283 PERSI update: Thank you letter was sent to Senator Shroator.

Harry moved, seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

 _____ Date
District Supervisor Signature 6-4-24

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