Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District
Meeting Minutes

Date: **Tuesday September 1,2026**
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, Jim Stevens, BSWCD, John Gaddess, BSWCD
Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Tom Fleer, BSWCD; Heather Pound, ISWCC; Megan Parnell, Farm Bureau; Rep. Cornell Rasor, Natalia Garcia

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

1. **August 2026 Meeting Minutes**
   Motion to approve August 2026 Meeting Minutes by Harry, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.
2. **Financials**
   a. *Motion to approve July 2026 financial reports made by Chris, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.*
   b. *Motion to approve payment of annual IASCD Dues of $1,800.00 Rick moved, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.*

B) Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

1. **Lakes Commission:** Sarah provided a brief update on the funding challenge of delays with DEQ for the Lakes Commission funding. The Board was also presented with the new 3-year lease agreement for the Lakes Commission office. The lease agreement realizes an annual 3% increase and changes the agreement from a month to month to fixed term agreement. *Harry moved, Seconded by Jeff to accept the new lease agreement on behalf of the Lakes Commission with all fees to be charged to the program. The motion carried.*
2. **Gov. Office of Species Cons. – Austin Terrell:** Austin was unable to attend at the last minute due to a carcass removal call out but asked that the Board be reminded that the Bear Fair will be September 26th at the boundary county fairgrounds all are welcome!
3. **AIS- Tom Fleer:** Over 12,000 watercrafts inspected, approximately 25% of all AIS sticker sales were through credit card sales. Since the Sheriffs department agreement went into effect (less than 2 weeks) they have returned 8 vehicles at Clark Fork and 12 at Albeni Falls. Beginning September 20th the station hours will be 6am – 7:30p to adjust for the changing daylight hours. Last week 8 watercraft were inspected fresh from Lake Mead a known infested waterbody. The Board was also made aware of an incident that took place between a local boater and an inspector at the Clark Fork station. The board was notified of the incident, the boaters subsequent public comments at the BOCC meeting, and the ISDA response including the letter received by Andrea Thompson, ISDA. Discussion was had regarding the email correspondence with ISDA. The board expressed appreciation for the way that Sarah and Tom handled the situation and response while expressing dismay with ISDA's handling of the situation. Rep. Rasor participated in the discussion and asked meaningful questions to have a clearer scope of the AIS program and impacts especially in our county.

4. **SWCC – Heather Pound:** Heather reminded the Board that a draft MOU has been posted to the commission website and that the public comment period closes on October 16th.

IDWR/ISWCC will host a joint meeting in September.

5. **Farm Bureau-Megan Parnell:** Megan informed the Board that the Bonner County Farm Bureau Resolutions committee met in August and they did move to present a resolution in support of maintaining and increasing AIS funding as well as enforcement of the AIS statues for those who fail to stop at inspection stations. The resolution will be presented at their District level on September 9th. The Farm Bureau 3rd grade field trip at the fairgrounds will be held October 21st and Bonner SWCD is being asked to host a station.

C) District Business

1. **AIS Resolutions and Updates:** The District discussed the current challenges we have faced this year as well as the feedback we have received so far regarding the District feedback.

2. **Division I Meeting:** The Board was informed that the Fall Division meeting will be hosted by KSSWCD at Scheffelmaiers in Rose Lake on Thursday Oct. 22nd

3. **Bonner County Fair:** Sarah thanked the Board for their volunteer hours at the Fair. Board members discussed the highlights for them. The board indicated that next year they would like to be along the indoor arena wall as well as would like more promo bags available for handing out.

4. **Food Summit Sponsorship:** The board was informed about the new format for this years food summit which will include the screening of the Women in Ag documentary on November 5th at the Panida theatre followed the next day by ignite sessions and networking at the Organic Ag center. Rick moved, Seconded by Jeff to sponsor the event at $100.00.

5. **IASCD Conference:** The IASCD Conference will be held at the University Inn in Moscow on November 17-19th, discussion was held and board members were encouraged to plan to attend Sarah will need to arrive on Monday. Dale and Chris indicated they would likely attend. Jeff will attend but travel lodging will be covered by IASCD. *Rick moved seconded by Jeff to cover the expenses for board and admin to attend the IASCD November Conference. Motion carried.*

6. **Personnel:** Sarah updated the board on the interviews that were completed with Heather and Karla as part of the panel. Sarah presented the panels final selection, Ashley Uzeta as their recommended hire. Her experience was discussed. *Harry moved, Rick seconded to hire Ashley Uzeta as a part-time district administrative assistant at $18/hr. with review in 90 days. Motion carried.*

D) District Updates: Sarah provided an overview of the work completed during August with a focus on the fair, Beaver Co-existence training, and the admin hiring process. In addition, Sarah notified the Board that she was invited and participated in a filming project with U of I regarding support streambank repair support for landowners. The filming took place at the Pack River project and was able to highlight some of the unique features such as the root wads and unique willow placements.

Motion to adjourn at 2:50pm by Rick, seconded by Chris.

Dale Van Horn — 10/16/26

District Supervisor Signature — Date