

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024  
**Time:** 1:00 pm Meeting  
**Place:** UI Extension (4205 N. Boyer Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864)

*Zoom info at bottom of agenda*

### Attendance

*Board members:* Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Chris Elliot, BSWCD

*Others:* Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD, Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC, Jennifer Jensen, UI Extension;

*via Zoom:* Bill Lilibridge, ISWCC, Kara Carter-Chase, NRCS

A quorum is present.

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

### 1. Call to Order - 1:06 pm

#### a. *Action Item: September 2024 Board Meeting Minutes*

Motion to approve Sept 2024 Board Meeting Minutes: Jeff Second: Rick

Motion carried

#### b. *Action Item: Financial Reports*

Sarah reported just under \$1600 accrued in interest. Rate cut half a point-to be effected in Oct. Bill payment list-a lot this past month, most being Molly's program and boat stations. District has logoed shirts, name tags. Board questioned Molly's salary if there was a change. She did have an increase 6 months ago. Funds from the Lakes Commission have not changed. Discussion of her possible commission meetings, possibly in February. Her print jobs of maps discussed. Board questioned LGIP amount. It was explained \$100K is for Molly's programs, other is for boat stations. Money is moved from LGIP to checking account for payroll. Money is help in LGIP account for maximum interest accrual. Last fiscal year received \$11K in interest income. Discussion on how much will be submitted to receive, possibly \$21K.

Motion to approve Oct Financial Reports: Rick Second: Harry Motion carried

#### c. *Action Item: Storage Unit*

Currently have 2 units, but with expansion on outreach, need additional space for supplies. A Aaron's Storage unit next to Miller's 10' x 10' for \$60, comparable to other facilities but with larger space. Water Festival does not cover storage space.

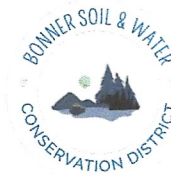
Motion to approve purchase of a storage unit: Harry Second: Jeff

Motion carried

#### d. *Action Item: Review Fair Board Letter*

Chris mentioned need to make edit to letter about locking up at night and suggestion to have all board members sign the final letter.

Motion to make edits with all board signatures and approve: Jeff Second: Chris Motion carried



e. **Action Item: RBDG Kitchen Floor Cost**

Sarah had visual media on screen to show images of the kitchen and floor of the kitchen. Discussion was on how the floor would present to future and current local producers and that cleaning it is needed. Suggestion to repair flooring at \$500. Floor is concrete and repair is small patches and top coat. Labor would be by use of volunteers and owners. Not a lot of expertise needed to do the work. Dale suggested District to pay for everything with a professional instead of volunteers. Sarah discussed owner's behavior with equipment company. Discussed deadline this work would need to be done is in November before Food Summit meeting. Discussion on equipment - District owns it for one year. After that, the Board entertains who should have it. Lease is for 3 years. Sarah can get bids and email board.

Motion to search for professional for floor resurfacing - Sarah to get bids and email Board approved by: Jeff Second: Chris Motion carried

2. **Agency/Grant & Guest Reports**

- a. **AIS/Boat Stations** - Sarah Garcia: Staff leaving due to boat station reduced hours. Detection in Snake River - were two miles north. Doing delimiting testing. This year finding less veliger's than last year. In August, samples rushed. Using multiple labs. They feel confident going forward with our program. Anyone coming out of Snake River is getting a full decontamination. Our traffic is still steady. We have a higher lake this year. Jenna said 4786 vehicles in Bonner's Ferry. We are going to stay open until the end of Oct. Jeff suggested might want to man launch sites. Boundary's is North and South bound and ours is South bound. We had police presence on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **GOSC** - Sarah Garcia: Apple press days went well. Bear fair last weekend.
- c. **Lakes Commission (POBC)** - Sarah Garcia: No updates.
- d. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report** – Kara Carter-Chase: (via Zoom) In Potlatch. Team 1's accomplishments for this year-(see PowerPoint slide from Kara). Breakdown how fund pools were supported, number of contracts, etc. Continuing to accept applications through Friday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Ag Classic – competitive for all of Idaho state. Rewards landowners for doing a good job already. Get payment above and beyond payments already received. Forest land funded separately. Air quality – special funding pool from national to reduce catastrophic wildfire. This year not having this fund for Idaho as can get from IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). Scattered lands vs. Hwy 95 – all of 95 and 200 highways. She will try to attend LWG meeting. Will be breakdown on budget and discussion on programs at meeting. Not be able to make Division 1 meeting, someone else will attend in her stead.
- e. **Pack River Watershed Council** - Sarah Garcia: No updates.
- f. **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)** – Jenna Ditzel- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> district allocations. Match funds on track to be dispersed in Nov. District got a





higher match this year. Additional funding in the pool of funding. \$29, 296 Bonner receives. County will match. Performance report due Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

- g. **UI Extension Report** – Jennifer Jensen: University still working on IAMP program for climate-smart practices - reduce tillage, nutrient management, etc. First round of applications done. Will be reopening for future offerings. Working through logistics to get payments to producers. Food summit – Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Apple tasting cancelled – wind storm damaged it. Some barn damage. There is an online Risk Management workshop Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Dec 6<sup>th</sup> for those interested in starting a small farm. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> pesticide workshop at Ag Center. This year will offer one session in Sandpoint but it is longer if would like to get credits. Rodent and gopher control has been popular. Ag Center is back in operation. Finalizing some presenters. Marketed to those with pesticide licenses. Can get advertising in Co-op for rodent and gopher control. Fall/native plants Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at Ag Center. Master gardener applications coming for next year. New position – Ag agent in Bonner’s Ferry. Two positions are at that location. This position is geared toward research and some teaching. Question if there is an interest in small farming – not too many people interested in marketing their products. Just homesteading or small livestock or subsistence farming.

Bill Lilibridge: Completed drawings for Pack River. Looking at a project next week – 319, first site visit. Several landowners have a shared driveway next to Priest River. A couple year project. Other Pack River 319. The Board viewed drone pictures. \$15K put in project. County no longer does work. Picture shows where hastening of added rocks makes stream go right into bank encouraging scour. Barbs to re-direct flow. Would need to be done by end of Sept.

Sarah: Cost estimate is just under \$100K. Present on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> to BAG committee. Will explain why it is catastrophic. 83 homes up to county line involved. No accessible way to exit. Cuts off homes. County \$15, land owner committed \$5K. 2<sup>nd</sup> land owner has committed some trees (In Kind match). There is room in budget for inflation. Partnering with Fish and Game for fish removal. 2026 is date work would be schedule due to permits to work through.

### **3. District Business**

- a. IASCD By-Laws: New suggested by-laws by IASCD do not plan to use Zoom for districts, but they as a district can. By-laws from 2022 are different from what Travis sent out. The Resolutions section suggests IASCD has the option to not include a District in its membership based on their opinion.
- b. **Action Item:** 2025 Water Festival Contract: currently expired contract. Only changes made were the dates for the new contract year. Gail is willing to go for another year. Board read it and likes how it reads. Gail emailed requesting the District audit.  
Motion by Harry to approve contract for EarthWise Seconded by: Jeff, requests that Gail follow rules. Motion carried.
- c. ICRMP Training: Board members will get a couple of training sessions in their email. They are videos to follow parameters of training. Some videos will be in



future board meetings. Contact person does not respond to our attempts at communication. The ICRMP fee has been paid for the new contact year and the past years' fees, the District found out, were overpaid.

- d. Local Work Group Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 19th. Cassie not available to attend. Posted flyer on Facebook, sent out to producers, and on BSWCD website. Presented to Farm Bureau Board meeting. Chris has some handouts. Posted to local Bonner County homesteader group and local farm and garden group. Not sure if Cindy (on detail) or Kara will be there. Moderator will be present. Qualifying questions are to be provided to Bonner SWCD. LWG is presented by the Districts and NRCS is answering technical questions. Dale will go as he is chairman on the group. Chris going, Jeff not going. Harry will go. Rick will go.
- e. Division Meeting: Board to meet at the District Office at 9am and ride with District Staff to Bonner's Ferry location.

#### 4. District Update

- a. BSWCD Report: Sarah Garcia
  - i. Grant updates:
    - 1. Pond Update: pond project presented at Oct. 17 Basin Area Group (BAG) meeting. BAG determines who gets funded for 319 grants (Clean Water Act). Driven by DEQ. School sponsoring pond project. It qualifies for Ag319 grant as there are cows around. Entails digging out pond, create barrier fencing and hard crossing. Can serve as observation area for teaching kids. Kids could therefore present it in May to the committee. Location on Selle Road. No moving water in Spring, but possibly in winter. There are culverts.
    - 2. Kitchen Update: see kitchen floor update above.
  - ii. Landowner visit: Site visit on Whiskey Jack to determine if it is a viable option for a grant.
  - iii. Audit update: Board needs to provide account questions and identifying info. Billing for Molly is changed to her account, not the District's.
  - iv. PSP Account: 20244 folder in District drive was deleted completely. Not able to recover. John Gaddess is helping to recover some files.
  - v. Administrative Assistant: Julie is doing accounts payable and receiveable; 3 demonstration classes visit for local homeschool; Lake Assist website getting updated to close out grant, Environscapes; identifying our ability to take on more grants next year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jeff, Seconded by Rick. Meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrative Assistant.

Dale Van Kave  
District Supervisor Signature

11/05/24  
Date



# Team 1 FY24 Accomplishments

- EQIP
  - Bonner and Boundary – 116 contracts, \$1,542,597 Obligated, 7,352 acres
    - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – 35
      - Sandpoint – 24
      - Bonners Ferry – 11
    - HWY 95 Joint Chief – 10
      - Sandpoint – 5
      - Bonners Ferry – 5
    - Scattered Lands Joint Chief – 25
      - Sandpoint – 25
      - Bonners Ferry – 0
    - National Air Quality – 19
      - Sandpoint – 15
      - Bonners Ferry – 4
    - Forest Management Plans – 2
      - Sandpoint – 2
      - Bonners Ferry – 0
    - Team 1 Regular Funding – 27
      - Sandpoint – 15
      - Bonner Ferry – 12
    - Team 1 IRA Funding – 29
      - Sandpoint – 21
      - Bonners Ferry – 8
- CSP
  - Bonner and Boundary – 8 contracts, \$535,170 Obligated, 7,258 acres
    - IRA – 7
      - Sandpoint – 4
      - Bonners Ferry – 3
    - CSP Classic Agland
      - Sandpoint – 0
      - Bonners Ferry – 1