

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2009
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101 – Sandpoint Field Office

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS
Vern Hollett, BSWCD Kim Golden, NRCS
Alice Wallace, BSWCD Jamie Davis, IASCD
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Fairy Delay, Associate Guest: Harry Menser
Kate Wilson, Associate Guest: Tom Herron, IDEQ

Absent: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Ed Nurmi, Associate

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Herman Collins. Herman welcomed everyone, and extended sympathy to Harry Menser and his family in the loss of his wife to cancer.

Cassie moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve Harry Menser as a Bonner SWCD Associate. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Vern moved to approve the February 2009 minutes and Cassie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

Vern reviewed the February financial report and moved to approve it. Cassie seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Vern moved to pay the bill to River Journal for \$25 and to transfer \$6000 of the \$15,000 POBC Grant for the L*A*S Program to the LGIP. Cassie seconded the motion, the motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS: Greg Becker reported as follows:

- EQIP: Application deadline was February 13th – working on around 30 applications.
- Supervisor Training in Oklahoma City for one week
- Completed snow survey at Mosquito Ridge. Moisture content is 60-70% normal in higher elevations, but the percentage goes down in lower elevations.

IASCD: Jamie reviewed her written report:

- Pend Oreille River Subdivision Grant Proposal Update: Total projected cost is \$100,000 with landowner contribution of \$20,000 and grant request of \$80,000.
 - **USFWS grant request for \$50,000 finalized and approved at last meeting & submitted – this may end up being funded by stimulus dollars
 - **Five-Star Restoration Program grant finalized at \$40,000. Jamie completed this proposal, Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve the final grant application. The motion carried.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Projects/Grants for 2009: We received word that one boat wash station and \$15,000 to man it have been approved.

- IDEQ Source Water Protection Program Grant – Jamie completed this for Division-wide Lake*A*Syst. After review, Vern moved and Alice seconded the motion to approve the grant application. *The motion carried.*
- Jamie gave the dates for SEEP training, which include April 22-23 in Bonners Ferry.
- Jamie will review her 319 Proposal for the Pend Oreille Nearshore Septic Pilot Project at the April or May meeting.
- Jamie, Kate, and Tom Herron manned a booth at the Boat Show in Spokane with water quality and aquatic invasive species information. Awareness of quagga mussels was heightened.

BSWCD: Linda O’Hare reviewed her written report:

- L*A*S:
 1. Received the IDEQ \$15,000 from Pend Oreille Basin Commission for Priest Lake*A*Syst 2009.
 2. Coordinator Position: Interviewed 10 very qualified candidates, and the interview committee recommends Molly McCahon, a landscape architect, be hired.
- Tree Seedling Sale: Confirmed all change orders due to irrigation problem and ultimate loss of seedlings at nursery. Profit is around \$2800 – lower than the last few years due to decrease in number of trees available.
- Forestry Contest – Karen Robinson has contacted all of the schools who have participated in the past and they all plan on being at the contest again this year.
- Jim and Virginia Wood’s application has been approved for the Forest Legacy Program. In honor of this, Bonner SWCD and IDL will donate a total of 50 seedlings to establish a new forest growth on their property. Both Jim and Virginia Wood are former board supervisors.

OLD BUSINESS

QuickBooks: Herman and Linda were directed to make a decision between online or desktop at the last meeting, but have not had a chance to meet regarding this yet. Alice recommended desktop. They will have a decision by the April meeting.

L*A*S Coordinator Position MOA: Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to hire Molly McCahon for the Pend Oreille Lake*A*Syst Coordinator Position at \$13 an hour and do an evaluation at the end of 3 months, which will include considering sick leave and vacation benefits *The motion carried.*

Lower West Branch Priest River WQPA Fund Balance: Landowner is still out of town - Jamie and Greg hope to have more information at the next meeting.

Funding for Water Quality Resource Conservationist Position – RC&D/NRCS Stimulus Funding:

- Tom Herron from IDEQ reported that they have experienced 8% cuts, and may have up to 15% next year, so they are also looking for alternative sources for funding projects. Tom confirmed that they will fund \$9,000 of Jamie’s position for 2nd quarter this year. They feel Jamie is very valuable at her position in North Idaho and they will do everything they can to help keep her here.
- Kim Golden reported on stimulus funding available for RC&D projects that are shovel ready that create or retain jobs. Alice moved that Bonner SWCD submit a request for \$240,000 for stimulus funding through RC&D that would help support water quality projects, particularly Jamie’s position and the Pend Oreille Lake*A*Syst Coordinator position, as well as on-the-ground projects. Vern seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Priest River TMDL Implementation Plan for Ag: Jamie will review this at the next meeting.

Division I Meeting: The Fall Meeting will be held at the Elk’s on Wednesday, March 11th. The following expressed an interest in attending: Vern, Harry, Greg, Kate, Herman, Cassie, Fairy, Alice, Jamie, Linda, and Dean White – a former DC who volunteers at the Food Bank. Linda will check with Dale and Molly. Cassie moved and Alice seconded the motion to pay the \$15 for those attending on behalf of Bonner SWCD. *The motion carried.*

Five Year Plan and FY11 Budget: The templates for the FY2010-14 Five-Year Plan that were distributed to the board at the last meeting have changed, and the deadline has been moved from May 8th to July 10th. Linda will work on a rough draft for the April meeting, and include time for public input. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed to board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Forestry Contest Agreement with NRCS – Amendment: The Amendment to change reporting from quarterly to annually was reviewed. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve the Amendment. *The motion carried.*

Memorial Phase I and Earth Day: Scott Daily would like to put more plants at the Phase I site on Earth Day – plants that he will donate. The soil was horrible in that area, and the survival rate was below that of Phase II. Herman selected Harry Menser to coordinate with Scott on this event scheduled for April 26.

“State of the Lake”: Kate reported on this F&G sponsored meeting open to the public held on February 21st. Around 50 anglers and F&G people attended. Kate presented a 15-minute quagga mussel and other aquatic invasive species power point. The main speaker was knowledgeable and interesting, and was well received.

Meeting Date with County Commissioners: We will meet with the Commissioners on Thursday, March 26th, at 11 am. They have moved to room 308 in the Federal Building. Greg, Herman, Cassie, Molly, and Linda will attend. The boat wash station and the 319 Fish Creek Grant will be discussed, including an MOA between the County and Bonner SWCD for the Fish Creek project.

RAC Proposal for Aquatic Invasive Species: Greg and Kate have been working on alternate funding for the AIS grants submitted by Bonner SWCD to the state. The proposal would be for funding everything that did not get funded by the state, which was a wash station and \$15,000 to man it in 2009. The proposal they submitted ranked 6th out of 10, and they fund projects according to the ranking until their funds run out. Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to support Bonner SWCD submitting this RAC proposal for funding another wash station plus man hours for one summer. *The motion carried.* After discussion, Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to amend the previous motion to include Bonner SWCD donating the wash station to another entity, perhaps the County, if they receive the grant. *The motion carried.* Cassie stated she felt it very important to get a commitment from other partners regarding funding the maintenance, storage, etc. so the project continues to be vital regardless of jobs changing.

Kate mentioned that Rep. Anderson has proposed a boat sticker that would help fund AIS prevention. The state legislature has many areas to address on this issue.

Fish Creek MOA: Cassie moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the final version of the MOA between Bonner County and the conservation district to coordinate the completion of the 319 Grant for road improvement and culvert replacement at Fish Creek. *The motion carried.*

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was available for review:

- 1) RC&D Meeting – March 12th, 1pm
- 2) NACD 2008 Annual Report
- 3) Pend Oreille Basin Commission Meeting – March 11th, 2:00 – 5:00
- 4) Final copy of ISCC Strategic Plan FY 2010-2014
- 5) Request for River Network Dues of \$100 – Linda and Jamie recommended not renewing this.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of Harry Menser as an Associate

Approval of February 2009 minutes

Approval of February financial report

Approval of 1 bill and 1 transfer

Approval of NFWS Five-Star Restoration Grant – the final proposal

Approval of Source Water Protection Grant for North Idaho

Approval of the MOA with IASCD for L*A*S payroll for FY2009-10

Approval of request to RC&D for stimulus funding to support water quality projects

Approval of paying \$15 registration for Division I Spring meeting for those attending on behalf of BSWCD

Approval of Amendment to Forestry Contest Agreement with NRCS changing reporting quarterly to annually

Approval of supporting RAC proposal for \$15,000 and wash station

Approval of supporting amending previous motion to include donating ownership of wash station to another entity

Approval of the MOA with the County to coordinate completion of Fish Creek project

All services of the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to national origin, race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Auxiliary aides or services for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please call 263-5310 five (5) days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made.