

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: February 2, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID

Attendance: Herman B. Collins, BSWCD Molly McCahon, LAS
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Erin Mader, POBC
Alice Wallace, BSWCD Brad Bluemer, Bonner County Weeds
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD Mark Hogen, SWC
Harry Menser, BSWCD Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Greg Becker, NRCS

Absent: Fairy Delay, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairman Herman Collins.

Approval of Minutes:

Alice moved to approve the January 2016 minutes and Harry seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Financial Report:

Alice reviewed the January financial report and moved it be approved. Dale seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Dale moved to approve donating \$50 to the Envirothon, Harry seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Days: Cassie Tauber reported on her trip to the Capitol January 26th to represent Division I for Legislative Days. While there she visited with Senator Keough, Rep. Heather Scott, Rep. Sage Dixon, and Rep. Tom Daily. She felt the trip was very worthwhile.

Herman reviewed the recent communication from IASCD regarding a get-together on March 15th between supervisors from the conservation districts and the legislators. Dale Van Stone may be there for Water Resources Board meetings and would attend if the dates coincide. As it is so expensive to travel from Sandpoint to Boise, the board felt it would be much more worthwhile to have the Division I meeting in April after the legislative session is over, and invite the legislators to attend.

County Building Codes: At the last board meeting it was voted on to sign and submit a letter to the County Commissioners to be delivered in person regarding any changes to existing land-use building codes. Commissioner Kelly, when contacted regarding a meeting, declined until the new Planning and Zoning Director is hired. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to mail the letter now without meeting with them personally. The Commissioners have scheduled a hearing on changing the appeals procedure before the new Planning and Zoning Director is hired, and that is one of the items the letter addresses. *The motion carried.*

No Till Drill: Cassie is attending the Cattlemen's Association meeting this Saturday, and is on the agenda to discuss whether there is a need for a no-till drill in Bonner County. The district is considering writing a grant to purchase one to be leased out to landowners. ICRMP is looking into any increase in the district's liability insurance on the

drill, but initially felt it would not be much more than we are paying now. The Ada District's website has great information on how to use the no-till drill. The board will continue discussion at the March meeting.

Ag Tourism: Community Kitchen "Incubator" Program: One of the goals of BSWCD is to support Ag Tourism. Cassie and Harry requested a letter of support from the district regarding the re-establishment of North Idaho Specialty Food Association as a 501c3 so they can get started again with the Kitchen "Incubator" Program. Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to write a support letter, *the motion carried*.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2017 Budget: After review, Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve the FY2017 budget, *the motion carried*.

FY2017 Annual Plan of Work: The board reviewed and updated the draft of the FY2017 Plan of Work. Mark Hogen is helping to update information on the Five-Year Plan. Both of these will be addressed at the March meeting, along with the Technical Assistance Requests.

2016 Boat Inspection Station Contract: Alice moved and Harry seconded the motion to approve and sign the 2016 Boat Inspection Station Contract, *the motion carried*.

2016 Fairbooth: After discussion, Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to reserve a \$75 single booth at the fair this year, *the motion carried*.

Wood's Nordic Trail: Greg was contacted by landowner Leonard Wood and by David Reseska from the Sandpoint Nordic Club about any resource concerns in developing a 30 kilometer cross country ski course on Wood's property. Potential involvement for the district could be in education and resource signs. The board requested Greg to ask them to address the next board meeting.

Bio Blitz – Kaniksu Land Trust: Cassie shared a letter from Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) about their involvement in the UI property on Boyer. The original objective of the UI property was for research and education, but UI is also keenly interested in community engagement. At 76 acres, it is the largest continuous parcel of land within the city limits. Long-term vision for the property may include carbon sequestration, community gardens and food security, agroforestry, k-12 education, reviving past research, deep community programs, and small farm incubators – as well as many others. Currently KLT is partnering with East Bonner County Library to install a "Story Walk Trail" on the property. Cassie will continue to communicate with them to see what a partnership with BSWCD could include. KLT is planning a community "Bio Blitz" in May, a 24-hour inventory of all forms of life on the property, which will include U of I faculty and students, local professionals, backyard naturalists, and the general public.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker: Greg reported that NRCS personnel in Division I and II have put in for a proposal for funding to target fire prevention. Target areas locally would be corridors along Hwy 200 and Hwy 2 covering up to two or three miles on either side of the highways. Hwy 95 may also be included. The funding would work like EQIP cost-share for eligible acres. It would consist of more aggressive fuel breaks, thinning, and fuel reduction.

POBC by Erin Mader: Erin reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes.

LAS by Molly McCahon: Molly reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. Molly shared a bulleted list of 2015 LAS accomplishments, and has the detailed report in her files.

Bonner County Weeds by Brad Bluemer: Brad reported on the Boise state weed conference. ITD is cutting staff which will minimize weed control along public highways. Brad is working to pick up part of that coverage in Bonner County. RAC (Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee) funding is available in 2016 – Brad is applying for funding to help with the highway weed control.

BSWCD by Linda O'Hare: Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. A meeting calendar for 2016 was distributed. The March meeting will be at the office. The April meeting will be a field trip to a WRP near Spirit Lake.

Alice moved and Harry seconded the motion to go into Executive Session, as per Idaho Code 67-2345, the motion carried. Alice moved and Harry seconded the motion to go out of Executive Session, the motion carried.

Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve the changes made at the last board meeting to the Personnel Policy, and to add one more change on page 18: Under "Medical Appointments", delete the two paragraphs there, and add, "Medical appointments are charged to sick leave." The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

- Approval of January minutes
- Approval of January financial reports
- Approval of \$50 donation to Envirothon
- Approval of mailing land-use code letter to County Commissioners
- Approval of writing a letter of support regarding reestablishment of the North ID Specialty Food Assoc as a 501c3
- Approval of FY2017 budget
- Approval of 2016 ISDA Boat Inspection Station contract
- Approval of \$75 single booth at Bonner County Fair
- Approval of going into and out of Executive Session
- Approval of updated Personnel Policy