

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010
Time: 12:30
Place: 224 Washington Ave., Suite 201

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD
Vern Hollett, BSWCD
Alice Wallace, BSWCD, left at 2:20
Cassie Tauber, BSWC D
Harry Menser, Associate
Fairy Delay, Associate

Greg Becker, NRCS, left at 12:50
Molly McCahon, L*A*S
Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Sara Schmidt, SWCC
Mark Hogen, SWCC
Erin Mader, POBC

Absent: Ed Nurmi, Associate

The board meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Chairman Herman Collins. Herman introduced and welcomed Sara Schmidt, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission Administrator, from Boise.

NRCS: Greg Becker gave his report first as he had another commitment.

- Greg reviewed the existing four EQIP/WQPA contracts we have, and the need for an extension with the SWCC on the WQPA deadline date of June 2011, especially for the new contract from 2010. There is enough money in the Division I program to cover the contracts, but not enough time to finish the projects by the deadline. Sara Schmidt (SWCC) said there has not been an extension asked for in the past, but to put all the details in a letter and submit it to the Commission. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to put all the details in a letter and submit it to be signed at the December meeting. *The motion carried.* Regarding the possibility of more money being needed for contracts if the deadline is extended would need to be taken up by the IASCD board. To allot more dollars to WQPA, the SWCC would need to take dollars away from district allotments. Another possibility to cover the costs would be to look to the EQIP program to increase the cost-share rates.
- BURP funding for DEQ has been cut, and DEQ is looking for support letters to request continuation of that funding. Greg submitted a letter for the board to consider submitting for that support. Dale moved and Vern seconded to motion to send the letter with minor revisions to DEQ, and also to our Senators and Representatives, and the Governor. *The motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes: Dale moved to approve the October 2010 meeting minutes and Cassie seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

Financial Report: Tabled until the end of the meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

L*A*S: Molly McCahon reported as follows:

- Molly sent 70 letters to shoreline residents on the Pend Oreille River regarding shoreline burning and water quality concerns. The area extended from the Bottle Bay RR bridge to Gypsy Bay, and was only to full-time residents.
- This week Erin Mader with POBC, Betsy Hall with ACOE, and Molly will be flagging small infestations of flowering rush that have been spotted including Dover Bay, Boyer Slough, Sand Creek, and by the Windbag. Next spring these flagged plants will be hand pulled. The larger infestations are being controlled by bottom barriers on selected test sites.
- Molly is researching the possibility of sending out a monthly newsletter by email with information from L*A*S, the district, and Pack River Watershed Council. She will report to the December meeting with details.

- Re IDAH2O Training: Molly, Greg, and Jessica Erickson completed the UI Master Training in Water Quality Monitoring on wadable streams. The one-day training included both classroom and field work. Their certification includes receiving a water quality monitoring kit and a discount on lab results in CdA for 2 tests per year at \$40 each. Along with a wadable stream Molly is able to do a Lake, and will monitor the outlets to the Lake at Euclid and Ella Streets to tie in with her 319 application. Data is submitted to UI.

ISWCC: Sara Schmidt reported as follows:

- Their district allocation budget is \$700,000. With each of the 51 districts getting a base of \$8500, that totals \$433,500 leaving a balance of \$266,500 to be allocated for match. A committee is reviewing the in-kind match submitted. Discussion followed by the board regarding our submission of the willow nursery for \$1000, and the possibility of other municipalities contributing to the district. Molly will check into those avenues.
- Sara reviewed the evaluation form completed by the district and the question marked “Not Applicable” regarding technical service provided by SWCC. Since the SWCC position assigned to the BSWCD office was terminated due to funding cuts, there has been a learning curve for the district to reach out for other assistance. Sara assured the board that Mark Hogen could be available for technical assistance to BSWCD a couple days a week. Molly discussed the fact that due to the USFWS designation of the whole shoreline being critical habitat and needing a biological assessment before any work is done, we could use Mark’s help in writing those. Mark said he would be glad to help with that.

ISWCC: Mark Hogen reported as follows:

- The quarterly newsletter put out by SWCC was reviewed, and Mark said the district information in December will be submitted by Division I and II. He suggested the 4 districts in Division I get together and decide how they want to submit their information. Due to both Division I and Division II being featured, each district might be limited for space, so a short article in the newsletter could be supplemented by a link to more information on the district website.
- Loan Program: Mark handed out a sheet with information on the RCRDP loan program (Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program). Discussion led to the question of using this funding for land acquisition for conservation easements. Sara suggested sending a letter to the Commission regarding that question.

POBC: Erin Mader reported as follows:

- Waterkeeper has requested a meeting with DEQ regarding their integrated report that will be held November 16th at Panhandle State Bank at 1:00.
- Last week Erin and Tom Woolf surveyed the results of Lake Pend Oreille milfoil treatment. The milfoil is coming back heavily due in part to the late growing season. Navigation could be a problem at the Sand Creek/City Beach area.
- BPA has not submitted its proposal yet re lake fluctuation.
- Erin will attend Level II AIS Training at Lake Mead next week.

BSWCD: Linda O’Hare highlighted her written report:

- Submitted to ISDA milfoil funding the grant proposal for 3 boat inspection stations in 2011. The grant request was for \$200,447.50. The final report for 2010 is due by the end of November.
- Fish Creek 319: Received approval for the gravel project to stabilize Fish Creek Road and Eich’s Road with the County doing the work. Gravel estimate was \$20,985.
- Herman and Linda attended the ICRMP PRIMA (Public Risk Management Association) Training in Coeur d’Alene that covered the topics of 1099s, unemployment and workers compensation, social media, and facilities. It was excellent training, and they both would like to attend the other sessions.
- Tree Sale: Have sold 19,715 seedlings, profit is around \$1716. Ponderosa Pine are still available.
- The in-kind Match for 2011 funding was submitted for \$1000 for the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District donation of the use of their land for the willow nursery. (1250 willows per year at \$2 = \$2500 x .40 = \$1000)

OLD BUSINESS

ICRMP Training: Covered in Linda’s report.

FY2010 Annual Report: Will be addressed at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

QuickBooks: Linda will present more information at the December meeting, and a decision between Online and Desktop will be made at that time. Sara suggested Linda visit with Nancy re non-profit charges.

State Conference:

- Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to pay \$25 for conference door prizes. *The motion carried.*
- Vern moved and Dale seconded the motion that either Alice or Herman, whoever attends state conference, be the voting delegate. *The motion carried.*
- Check with Linda if you are interested in IDEA raffle tickets. The four prizes this year include a 338 Ruger M77R with Bushnell Scope, a fishing rod and reel, a waterproof digital camera, and a steelhead or scenic Salmon River float trip. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Donations to Bonner SWCD:

At the last meeting the question came up regarding the legality of a conservation district receiving donations. Linda checked with CPA Leonard Schulte and he replied that as a political subdivision of the state, we are a qualified organization to receive contributions. The donor's receipt should include our E.I.N. More information can be found in IRS Publication #526.

Pack River Watershed Council: The Avista deadline for a watershed funding request letter for 2011 is December 1st. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to submit a letter for 2011 funding to bring the total back to \$4000. *The motion carried.* The estimate in expenses by December 1st is around \$3700.

IDEQ BURP Funding: This was covered by Greg at the beginning of the meeting.

\$1,100 IASCD Support for Executive Director Position: Cassie moved and Dale seconded the motion that we wait until we see a budget before sending the \$1,100 and a new Executive Director is hired. *The motion carried.*

Financial Report: Vern reviewed the October financial report and moved it be approved. Cassie seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of submitting a letter to the Commission to extend the Division I WQPA deadline

Approval of sending a letter to the Governor and legislators regarding support of BURP funding

Approval of October 2010 meeting minutes

Approval of \$25 for conference door prize

Approval of Alice or Herman as voting delegate, whoever goes to conference

Approval of submitting funding letter for Pack River Watershed Council for 2011 to Avista

Approval of waiting to support IASCD Exec.Dir. position until budget is presented and new Exec. Dir. is hired

Approval of October 2010 financial report

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.