

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: September 9, 2014
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance:

Herman Collins, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Mark Hogen, SWC
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD	Brad Bluemer, County Weed Dept.
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Jennifer Jensen, UI Extension
Greg Becker, NRCS	

Absent: Vern Hollett, Associate; Fairy Delay, Associate; Erin Mader, POBC

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order at 1:30. Jennifer Jensen was introduced and welcomed as the new Bonner County UI Extension Agent.

Approval of Minutes:

Dale moved to approve the July minutes; Alice seconded the motion, *the motion carried*.

Financial Report:

Alice reviewed the July and August financial reports and recommended they be approved. Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve the July and August financial reports, *the motion carried*. Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to pay ICRMP the premium of \$1,069, and approve the transfer of \$6750 from the LGIP account to PSB, *the motion carried*.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker:

- Three Wetland Reserve Program projects have seen a lot of activity this summer:
 1. A 24-inch 1200-foot pipeline was installed to bring a stream back to its original wetland
 2. Kalispel Tribe wetland re-hydrated to the water level
 3. Bismark Meadows - 1200 acre wetland restoration, lynx and grizzly bear protection
- Greg reviewed NRCS's directive regarding obtaining input from our Local Work Group. Chairman Herman appointed Harry Menser to lead this committee effort on the part of the district. The board was eager to gather input regarding natural resource priorities and implement them into ranking of EQIP projects. Around 30 names were suggested to update the Local Work Group.

Lake Assist by Molly McCahon: Molly reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes, and reported further on her efforts with first responders in the Sandpoint area and the Priest Lake area regarding spill prevention and containment.

POBC by Molly McCahon – taking over for Erin Mader during maternity leave: Molly reviewed their written report which is included with the minutes. Molly also reviewed the agenda for the next POBC meeting to be held on September 16th from 9am to noon at Dover City Hall. Molly also reviewed the letter from Governor Otter to the Army Corps regarding the lake level management plan for Albeni Falls Dam and its effect on Lake Pend Oreille.

SWC by Mark Hogen:

- Mark handed out copies of the Commission's fall newsletter.

- Mark reviewed a recent visit with a Bonner County resident requesting SWC funding. Mark recommended he start with a conservation plan with Greg. In driving in that area, Mark spotted a lot of erosion not from ag, but from the county and private roads. Cassie also brought up some areas on Gold Creek Road that involve large erosion. Mark said he would help the district with a 319 grant for road stabilization.

BSWCD by Linda O'Hare: Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. Other topics covered included:

- Tom Woolf confirmed that ISDA would like the district to administer a boat inspection station in the Clark Fork area in 2015 to inspect watercraft traveling both east and west. We are looking for a suitable site in that area. Discussion took place regarding the amount of time it takes to administer 3 stations and the need to hire a supervisor so the district office would have time to pursue the other road improvement and streambank projects they also want to complete – as well as the cost effectiveness of a 3rd station.
- Regarding a prior discussion with UI Area Extension Educator Chris Schnepf and partnering on a tour of streambank projects in the Pack River watershed, Chris emailed he would like to wait until 2015 to do this tour and suggested the date of August 5th. The board suggested mid-September as a better date so local farmers and natural resource professionals would have the time to attend.
- Discussion was held on the fair booth and the amount of time high school student Annika Hinds volunteered to help with it. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to give Anika a gift certificate for \$50, *the motion carried.*

Bonner County Weed Dept. by Brad Bluemer: Brad gave a brief report on the success of his dry land treatment of flowering rush on 4 separate sites, about an acre each. The Army Corps toured the sites in July, and Brad and the Corps are putting together a 3-year plan for treatment. Those sites will be part of his Regional ISDA Weed Tour on September 10th and 11th, which is for both terrestrial and aquatic weeds.

UI Extension by Jennifer Jensen: Jennifer said her position focuses on both Horticulture and Small Farms. One grant project she reported on is a high tunnel installed at Green Tree Naturals. They are doing growth comparisons between vegetables grown in the high tunnel, other hoop houses, and outside.

OLD BUSINESS

IASCD Dues: Herman reported on the effort to determine a method of dealing with districts unable to pay their IASCD membership dues, and the hardship plan to help them out. This year, everyone's annual dues were reduced by \$200, making them \$1800. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to pay the IASCD dues of \$1800, *the motion carried.* IASCD's FY2014 budget report was included in the board packets.

NEW BUSINESS

Boat Inspection Program: In August with board approval from the July meeting, Herman approved of extending the ISDA contract for 2 more weekends into September. The stations will close on September 15th. The board discussed giving the boat employees holiday pay next season - with 2 stations, this would amount to around \$1000. That increase would need to be included in the grant request for next year – more information will be gathered. Drug testing for next season was discussed utilizing information provided by Bonner General Hospital – Linda will check with ICRMP for guidelines.

Division I Meeting, October 10 in Coeur d'Alene: Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to pay for registration for board and staff attending the Division I meeting on October 10th, *the motion carried.*

IASCD State Conference in Lewiston, Nov. 18-19: Information regarding the conference was distributed to the board; no decision on a delegate was made yet.

Tree Seedling Sale: Sales have been unusually high this year, and we are already out of many species for our division sale.

Water Festival: Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to approve the independent contractor agreement with Gail Bolin as coordinator for the Water Festival again in 2015, *the motion carried*. Gail was complimented for the great job she does.

Dry Erase Board: Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to purchase the used 6 ft x 4 ft dry erase board from Jean Plue for \$50, *the motion carried*.

Online Bill Payment: Alice suggested looking into online bill payment for the district. Linda will check with both our auditor and the Soil & Water Conservation Commission and report at the next meeting.

Other:

- Harry Menser reported on the recent presentation at the public library on the Ice Age Flooding by Tony Lewis.
- Herman reminded everyone of the Draft Horse Show at the Fairgrounds September 18-21.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of July minutes

Approval of July and August financial reports

Approval of paying ICRMP premium and LGIP transfer to PSB of \$6750

Approval of \$50 to Annika Hinds

Approval of \$1800 IASCD dues

Approval of paying registration for Division I meeting in CdA

Approval of EarthWise, Gail Bolin, as coordinator for 2015 Water Festival

Approval of \$50 for dry erase board