

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2017
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID



Attendance:

Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Greg Becker, NRCS
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD	Jessica Erickson, PRWC
Herman Collins, BSWCD	Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Guest: Bill Lillibridge, SWC
	Guest: Brad Shelton, SWC, Division I

Absent: Erin Mader, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace. Alice welcomed Bill Lillibridge and our new Division I Water Quality Resource Conservationist Brad Shelton. Brad briefly introduced himself and shared his background. He is from Rathdrum and graduated from UI, and his last position as a conservation consultant had him working throughout the US.

Approval of Minutes: Dale moved, seconded by Harry, to approve the February 2017 minutes, *the motion carried.*

Financial Report: Cassie reviewed the February financials and moved to approve them. Dale seconded, *the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

FY2018 Annual Plan of Work and Update of Five-Year Plan, Technical Assistance Requests: The Annual Plan was submitted for review with updates from three previous meetings. The Five-Year Plan updates were reviewed. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to approve both the FY2017 Annual Plan of Work and the updated Five-Year Plan and sign the certification, *the motion carried.* Linda stated the importance of staying ahead of and being prepared for urbanization in our Five-Year Plan. The board agreed and will incorporate that in the future.

The Technical Assistance Requests were reviewed with the help of Bill Lillibridge. Harry moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve the FY2018 Technical Assistance Requests, and signing the certifications, *the motion carried.*

Division I Meeting: For the Division meeting the idea of a program regarding federal/state ownership of lands for the Division I meeting was dismissed. Linda will check into other ideas suggested by the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Hiring a New District Administrator: Six interviews were held for the position. The board decided to go into Executive Decision toward the end of the meeting to discuss further.

Boat Inspection 2017 MOU and Hiring Schedule: The MOU had not been received yet, but Linda was working by phone with ISDA to get that finished – we should receive it within a week. 17 of our inspectors are returning – we need to hire for 1 full time and 1 part-time position. Dale moved and Herman seconded the motion to begin the hiring process, *the motion carried.* Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to have Alice review the ISDA MOU when it is received, and if there aren't any major changes to sign it, *the motion carried.*

Child Care in the Sandpoint Field Office: Greg Becker presented a draft of child care guidance for Bonner SWCD meetings that was discussed. The board determined it would deal with it on a case-by-case basis as the need arises.

January 2017 State Mileage Rate Decrease = \$.535: Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to keep it at \$.54, *the motion carried*. The board felt the rate would be going up again soon.

Civil Rights/EEO: Greg reported NRCS in Sandpoint would be hiring another student intern around the end of May to August 1st. Seth, who interned in our office last year, will be interning at Caldwell this summer. No final word yet on the DC position in Benewah – the CdA office is covering it at this time.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker: 1) Greg asked the board to spread the word to people they know regarding RCRDP loans provided by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission. The interest rate is low, 2.5% up to 7 years, and 3.5% up to 15 years, and the loans can be for land, machines, and 2nd mortgages. 2) Greg said Kaniksu Land Trust has asked to speak to the board at the April 4th meeting regarding easements and trusts. The board suggested up to 15 minutes. 3) Greg had charts and maps showing the snow report for Bonner County and the state of Idaho – we are near normal thanks to a very wet February.

POBC & LAS by Molly McCahon: 1) Molly reported the Real Estate class is being held this Thursday at Columbia Bank and 66 people have registered. 2) SEEP class will be held in Bonner County April 11 and 12. City of Sandpoint requires SEEP certification for work within the City limits. 3) Jessica Erickson is expanding her hours for the district and helping Molly with the AIS activity books, the website, the Lakes Commission Meetings, the Selle Valle sub area Comprehensive Plan updates, and hopefully the WDC classes. 4) The lake level has risen and may be fluctuating until May. 5) Molly attended the Northwest Hydropower conference in Portland Feb 21-24. She said hydro power is not considered a renewable resource federally. The government will subsidize increasing our renewable energy 15% which includes wind and solar, but not power. Hydro power has low emissions, but does cause some damages ie fish passage.

Pack River Watershed Council by Jessica Erickson: 1) Jessica shared the AIS activity books she and Molly have been working on. 2) The February Nearshore TMDL meeting was canceled so we haven't heard the results yet from the TMDL 5-year review. After Kristin gives her report in March or April, we will complete our PRWC 2017 annual plan utilizing some of that information.

Linda talked to the board about expanding Jessica's hours. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to expand Jessica's hours and to update her job description, *the motion carried*. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to have Linda look into PERSI for retirement for our full-time employees, *the motion carried*.

Bonner SWCD by Linda O'Hare: Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. 1) Linda reported that Ray Delay is the Honorary Chairman for the Forestry Contest this year. 2) Lighthouse has donated two gift baskets, one for the Forestry Contest and one for the Water Festival. 3) The Fly Fishing Film Tour (f3t) is at the Panida starting at 7pm on Saturday, March 25th – proceeds are split between TU and the Water Festival. Jessica, Alice, Cassie, and Molly volunteered to help sell raffle tickets. 4) Final pack out numbers were received from the Nursery and adjustments had to be made with shortages on the Western Larch and Doug Fir. Seedlings will be available for pick up the first week of April.

SWC by Bill Lillibridge and Brad Shelton: Bill reported he will be working on the Spring Creek project. Bill will develop the conceptual plans for Avista and the County, then we hope to get funding through a 319 grant. He will keep the headgate in place, do some earth moving and planting to utilize plants to close down the existing channel, then try to get the water in the old channel. Brad will be spending time with Greg Becker on projects to learn more about Bonner County, and help us with our resource inventory.

Herman moved, Cassie seconded motion to go into Executive Session, *motion carried*. Herman moved, Cassie seconded motion to return to regular session, *motion carried*. The board requested Linda to scheduled second interviews for the top two candidates for the District Administrator position on Tuesday, March 14th, during the lunch hour.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of February minutes

Approval of February financial reports

Approval of FY2018 Annual Plan of Work and Five-Year Plan

Approval of SWC Technical Assistance Requests

Approval of proceeding with boat inspection attendant hiring

Approval of signing ISDA MOU after it is received and Alice reviews it

Approval of keeping mileage reimbursement at 54 cents

Approval of extending Jessica Erickson's hours and updating her job description

Approval of Linda looking into PERSI retirement for full-time Bonner SWCD employees

Approval of moving into and out of Executive Session

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.