

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Time: Tour 1:00, Meeting 2:20
Place: 1224 Washington Ave, Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Molly McCahon, L*A*S
Vern Hollett, BSWCD Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD Tom Herron, DEQ
Kate Wilson, Associate
Harry Menser, Associate

Absent: Alice Wallace, Supervisor; Fairy Delay, Associate; Ed Nurmi, Associate

Tour: The board and office staff met at the University of Idaho Ag Research and Extension center at 1:00 for an indoor tour, information on their recent research, and the status of their state funding. Dr. Dan Barny reviewed the history of the local R&E Center, highlighted the successes they have had with the development of the huckleberry to cultivars, then he took us in the lab where the many varieties of huckleberries are being tested and developed. Our local R&E has funding through the end of June, 2010, then will need to be self-sustaining in order to stay open.

The board meeting was called to order at 2:20 by Chairman Herman Collins.

Approval of Minutes:

Dale moved to approve the December 2009 minutes and Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

Financial Report:

- Vern reviewed the November financial report and moved that it be approved. Dale seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*
- Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve paying the \$100 nursery license and to approve of the following transfers:
 - \$15,000 to LGIP, Forestry Contest donation, Larry Fryberg Memorial
 - \$1,500 from LGIP to PSB Division I WQPA Account, administration fees
 - \$4,000 from LGIP to PSB Lake*A*Syst POBC Account, payroll to IASCD
 - \$10,000 from PSB to LGIP, INCF Grant
 - \$7,899.09 from PSB to LGIP, 2nd state allocation

The motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS: Greg Becker reported as follows:

- All new EQIP applications now require Forest Management Plans, so Greg has been working on those. Prior to this year they were all pre-commercial management, but now have the alternative of commercial.
- Snow Survey: Greg, Dennis and Mike now have most of the snow surveys in the North Panhandle, and have added 4th of July Pass, Humboldt, and Kellogg Peak.
- Fish Creek: working on private landowner agreements.
- Presented on Pest Management in Sandpoint and in Bonners Ferry for UI Extension.
- Local Work Group: Had good response to email requests for information from the Local Work Group. The 3 top conservation concerns were invasive species, forest management, and urban development. Due to time constraints we were unable to have a meeting this year, but the email was an efficient alternative.

L*A*S: Molly reported as follows:

- POBC 2009 Grant: Molly finished the 2 new chapters on Aquatic Invasive Species and Boating & Recreation, and they were included with the final report that was due at the end of December. Molly is expanding the Invasive Species Chapter to also include Terrestrial.
- The Priest Lake/Priest River Chamber of Commerce has a grant available called Priest Lake People Helping People, and Molly would like to apply for \$1,100 to fund 15 recognition signs for Priest lake shoreline landowners who have completed conservation buffers. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to apply for the \$1,100 grant. *The motion carried.* Molly is working on the wording for the signs. Tom Herron suggested keeping track of each of these recognized properties in a booklet that could be shared with tours or individuals. Specific information on type of plants, heights, and effectiveness could be included.
- INCF: We were very glad to receive \$10,000 from Inland Northwest Community Foundation. We had asked for \$30,000, but had been informed their resources this year were down due to the recession.
- 2010 POBC: We also are grateful to receive the \$5,000 grant requested from POBC for 2010 L*A*S. Thanks to Kate Wilson and Tom Herron for their support in obtaining this grant.
- Molly and Ruth Watkins will work on a grant for a BMP at the Waterlife Discovery Center that is due in February. Molly plans on 3 planting zones, a steep area, an upland native area with plants identified, and a native grass section to be used as an outdoor classroom area. We also will be applying for another 319 grant in April.
- The flowering rush that was collected in a frozen Boyer Slough in early December is flourishing in a jar in the office.

BSWCD: Linda O'Hare highlighted her written report:

- Boat Wash Station 2010: No word yet – Linda will report at the next meeting.
- L*A*S POBC 2009: Final report submitted.
- Fish Creek 319: Working on landowner contracts.
- Pack River Watershed Council (PRWC): Reviewed December issue of The River Ranger. Will meet January 11th with Jessica Erickson, PRWC Coordinator, Joe Dos Santos from Avista; Rob Ryan, Fish & Game representative to North Idaho; Herman, Cassie, Molly, Kate, Greg and Linda.
- Tree seedling sale: Have sold 15,370 seedlings so far, profit of \$1905.42.
- Pend Oreille Water Festival is looking for a new location this year due to remodeling at Riley Creek campground. Most schools will be unable to pay for any field trips this year, and the Water Festival is hoping to have enough money to pay their transportation cost. To help minimize this cost, we are looking for a location in Sandpoint – a park that has a number of tables and some sheltered area.
- Mark Taylor requested a letter of support from the district for a grant to build a sidewalk from the dock to the classroom at the Waterlife Discovery Center. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve this letter. *The motion carried.*

IDEQ: Tom Herron reported on the lack of funding that has also affected their office. Their interim report is due in mid February, and they will make due with the best available data from the monitoring they are able to conduct. Their field season will be limited. One of the areas they will be working on is the nutrient TMDL for the Pend Oreille River. The lake level fluctuation issue has increased their monitoring. 319 Grants should be well funded again this year.

OLD BUSINESS

L*A*S Five-Year Plan: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the L*A*S Five-Year Plan. *The motion carried.*

POBC 2010 L*A*S Grant: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve Herman signing the POBC 2010 L*A*S Grant for \$5,000. *The motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to retain the same officers for 2010. *The motion carried.* Herman Collins will be Chairman, Dale Van Stone will be Vice-Chairman, and Vern Hollett will be Treasurer.

Lake Level Fluctuation Proposal: Kate Wilson updated the board on the issue of lake level fluctuation.

- The Bonneville Power Administration this year requested that dam operators be allowed to operate the reservoir within a range of from 2,051 to 2,056 feet after spawning is completed or Nov. 15, whichever happens first. That would allow the storage of more water, which could be used to generate power in a 'peak demand' situation for Grand Coulee Dam downstream.
- The initial proposal was discussed at the annual meeting on December 8th and attended by around 70 people. EPA and ACE had only a small amount of information available at that time, and were basing their conclusions to approve the fluctuation on a 1983 environmental impact statement. Bull trout became an endangered species in 1996, and other issues such as erosion, sedimentation, impacts on aquatic invasive species, and damage to local infrastructure have arisen since then. Also, the power generated by the fluctuation is not known at this time to be needed.
- A conference call was held on December 23rd, and had great participation, including Walt Minnick's office, Senator Risch, Senator Crapo, Governor Otter, and county and local elected officials. Rep. Eskridge said they have more questions than answers, and Katie Brody of the Governor's office echoed that.
- The Pend Oreille Basin Commission meets tomorrow, January 6th, and will discuss the issue further. Six people from BPA will attend, as well as Kathy Cousins from F&G who can address the potential for erosion in the delta.
- Grand Coulee power generation during peak times is the impetus behind the lake level changes. Water from Lake Pend Oreille supposedly takes 8 hours to travel to Grand Coulee for power generation. A final decision on the lake fluctuation issue will be made in January.

Idaho Ag in the Classroom: Linda will check into the use of Ag in the Classroom in Bonner County and report at the February meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the office at 2:00 on February 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

- Approval of December 2009 minutes
- Approval of December 2009 financial report
- Approval of transfers and bills presented
- Approval of applying for \$1,100 PLPHP Grant
- Approval of support letter for sidewalk for WDC
- Approval of LAS Five Year Plan
- Approval of LAS POBC \$5,000 grant for 2010
- Approval of retaining same officers for 2010

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.