

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: Bonner County Extension Service (4205 N Boyer Ave, Sandpoint, ID 83864)\* Zoom Teleconference

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### Attendance:

*Board members:* Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD; John Gaddess, BSWCD *Others:* Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Georja Kriebs, BSWCD; Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC; Chris Elliott; Tom Daniels, ISACD; Gail Bolin, Water Festival

*Zoom Attendees:* Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

### Call to Order 1:00 PM

**1. Action Item: Amended agenda.**

Motioned to amend agenda by: Rick                      Second by: Jeff                      Motion carried

**2. Action Item: February 2024 Minutes**

Motioned to approve Feb. meeting                      Second by: Rick                      Motion carried  
minutes by: Jeff

**3. Action Item: Financial Reports**

Motioned to approve Jan. financial report                      Second by: Jeff                      Motion carried  
by: Rick

**4. Action Item: PSP Checking & LGIP**

Motioned to open a PSP checking account                      Second by: Rick                      Motion carried  
and LGIP account by: Jeff

### AGENCY REPORTS

**Pack River Watershed Council:** upcoming Pack River Field Trip March 27

**NRCS - Cindy Lewis:** Been splitting time between both field offices. Staff working on ranking. Issues with national ranking system not ranking correctly. Receive Joint Chief additional fund, requested additional funds, over \$700,000 IRA, but only 400,000 can spend. State stand still until ranking system is up and running. Contracting done by July hopefully. Still working on cultural review, having to outsource to other states. Which is affecting contracts across the board because of the back up on cultural review needing to be completed.

**Water Festival- Gail Bolin:** Water Festival is May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Been receiving donations. Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> setting up display at the local Library. Purchased animal tracks, wood blocks and repair supplies.

**SWC Report – Jenna Ditzel:** Following legislation. WQPA funding hasn't been approved yet but still moving forward. Expecting an increase of \$75,400 to state match funds pool. Potential 319 project; landowner on Baldy Rd., erosion issue .

### **IASCD LETTER/HB 403 Discussion- Tom Daniels:**

Tom thanked the board for letting him attend, apologized for the frustration but expressed confusion as to the Boards concerns of IASCD's handling of recent legislation related to conservation districts. Tom expressed dismay over the boards public letter to IASCD Board but when confronted acknowledged that he & Travis had failed to acknowledge a private inquiry sent to them a week prior. Jeff addressed the complete lack of communication by Tom and IASCD with him as the elected alternate for Division I. Tom acknowledged that he had failed to communicate and redirected the conversation to ask about why he hadn't received communication from Sarah about a previous division meeting,

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he was reminded that Bonner SWCD was not hosting that meeting and that the Minutes were provided to his district administrator within a week for distribution per Idaho public meeting law. Tom asked that the board call him when they are concerned about an issue instead of sending an email. He was reminded that per the previous ICRMP training attended by Division I Boards in 2020 the Bonner SWCD boards method of communicating through their District Administrator was the appropriate means of communication so that they are gathering and disseminating information to all board members uniformly per their role according to open meeting laws of Idaho.

### DISTRICT BUSINESS

#### Action Item: Boat Stations MOU:

Motioned to approve MOU and sign after revision or amendment re: PERSI/Dates by: Rick Motion carried  
Second by: Jeff

#### Action Item: Annual Plan of work/5yrs plan – Due March 31<sup>st</sup>:

Motioned approve annual & 5 yr. plan by: Second by: Rick Motion carried  
Jeff

**FY 2025 District Working Budget:** Discussion was held as to when the Board could meet to review and approve FY25 working budget. FY2025 budget meeting April 16 at noon.

**Round Lake Fishing Day IFG – May 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>:** Reminder of upcoming field trip event.

**Forest Contest – May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Reminder of the date of the Forest Contest. Everything is going as planned. Haven't received many registrations so far this year. The cost of lunch has gone up by \$1/per person.

**Tree seedling update – Delivery April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pickup is April 4<sup>th</sup>:** Sent initial email out to all customers on tree pick up information. We are 80% sold on trees with White Pine and Western Larch still available. The Facebook ad spent \$60 spent 5 days posted, with 18,000 ad views/interactions.

#### Action Item: Division I Meeting – Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> Sandpoint:

##### Agenda Items

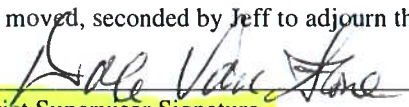
- Nomination or names for the Commission representative for Division I.
- Board directed that agenda should be based on previous Division meeting agendas and input from other Division I Boards.

### DISTRICT UPDATES

#### BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:

- Grant Updates
  - Source Water Grant: extended to end of year because of how we can interact with the schools.
  - Bismarck meadow: Completed a round of billing.
  - Rural Business- Incubator Kitchen: Sent initial grant in waiting on clarification on admin. To purchase equipment then lease to pay back equipment. Funding can help with marketing, a potentially setting up the kitchen have culinary classes for degrees. Has already been submitted.
  - Urban Ag Grant: will be utilized to identify the needs of the local school and public garden spaces. Apply by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Compost grant: fine tuning of grant and will assess reapplying.
- S1283 PERSI update: Moving thru the house now, should know if passes within the week. Anticipating that the bill will pass.
- Boat stations: Open stations Clark Fork April 11, other stations April. Will have at least 2 stations open until Oct 31<sup>st</sup> if PERSI Bill is approved. Wages have stayed the same.

Rick moved, seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

  
District Supervisor Signature

  
Date

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