

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: CREC Conference Room, 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220, Sandpoint ID 83864

Attendance

Board members: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Chris Elliott, BSWCD; John Gaddess, Associate BSWCD.

Others: Kaitlyn Parks, ISWCC; Bill Lilibridge, ISWCC; Austin Terrell, GOSC; Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD.

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

A) Call to Order

1. January 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve January 2026 Board Meeting Minutes by Rick, seconded by Jeff.

Motion carried.

2. December 2025 Financial Report

Motion to approve December 2025 Financial Reports by Rick, seconded by Harry.

Motion carried.

B) Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

1. **Farm Bureau - (Chris):** Ag Week is March 16-20. Will be partnering with 4-H.

2. **GOSC - Austin Terrell:** Wolf/grizzly conflict prevention deadline is 2/28 with \$164,000 in funding. Currently there are 16 applications with approximately \$250,000 in funding requests, the application packets will be reviewed for ranking in mid-March. The applications are more heavily weighted toward wolf conflict. There is a potential merger at the state level between the office of Mineral & Energy as well as Species Conservation. Austin will be looking for habitat restoration for pollinators.

3. **NRCS - Cindy Lewis:** Cindy could not attend, see her attached notes.

4. **SWCC – Kaitlyn Parks & Bill Lilibridge:** Match allocations have been distributed. Committee presentation on Feb. 12th and 18th. March 31st -Annual/5yr. plan due. Kaitlyn's leaving - her last week is next week. Bill drove by the Upper Pack River and saw that willow plantings are in place. Sarah noted previous projects such as E. Spring Creek culverts were damaged due to a rain event. Bill noted there is an Engineers In Training (EIT), which would help since he will be retiring in a couple of years. There is a Stormwater Management DEQ 319 grant available.

5. **Water Festival:** Water Festival Steering Committee met on January 26th. Water Festival dates for this year are Wednesday, May 20th and Thursday, May 21st, with Tuesday, May 19th as set-up.

C) District Business

1. **Spokane Conservation District Conference:** Sarah and Julie noted what was learned at the conference in each of the workshops and takeaways. Pamphlet materials, brochures, and notes were taken to help aid in technical and operational procedures of the District. Sarah noted that

there was a particular type of seed that would aid in plantings for projects keeping them in the ground longer during winter and rain events.

2. **Legislative Social:** Jeff and Sarah reviewed their time at the Legislative social as well as the positive change of venue and structure of the event. The IASCD Board meeting prior to the legislative social was also viewed to movement in a positive direction.
3. **IDEA Directory:** Sarah discussed a state-wide directory of all the Districts' contact information for easy retrieval and updating and a Google Forms app to attain that information. She discussed the Business Meeting held on Jan. 21st in which they reviewed and made changes to the IASCD by-laws and policies discussed at the November conference.
4. **Natural Resources Camp Scholarship:** Board reviewed the camp brochure and discussed a possible scholarship to assist Bonner County students in attending. Motion to allow up to two scholarships, \$310 each (\$620 total) for Bonner County students to attend the Natural Resources Camp by Jeff, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
5. **Envirothon Donation:** Motion to donate \$100 to the Envirothon by Harry, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
6. **POB Invasive Mussel Prevention & Readiness Summit:** Dates to meet have been set for April 13th and 14th at the Priest River Event Center at 10am. Various partners will attend including ISDA, Molly, partnering states such as Washington, British Columbia, and Montana.
7. **Spring Division Meeting:** BSWCD will host this spring. Dates to be determined for March, possibly on a Thursday. Location possibly the Organic Ag Center. Partners that will present are: DEQ, possibly ISDA, Jim Woodward, and Molly. Tom Daneils will be given a gift of appreciation by Lauren Scarcello. Light breakfast and lunch to be served.

D) District Update

1. BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:

Seedling sales: Sarah noted that we are approximately 30% sold on tree sales, as a District. There is a bit of a struggle for each district in the PSP program. IFM may contact us soon.

KSSWCD: Due to an emergency 3-week leave by the Kootenai District Admin, Sarah and Julie assisted with Kootenai's duties such as tree sales and getting paperwork signatures from their Board.

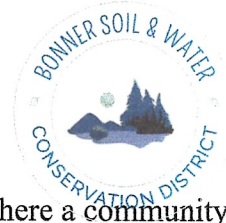
Foresters Forum: Seedling sale forms and brochures were available at this year's Forester 's Forum at the CDA Resort.

Forestry Contest: Donations are coming in and registrations are beginning. A Steering Committee meeting was held on Jan. 15th. Sarah attended the Office of Information Technology Services after the Legislative Social to review the systems that will be used for the Forestry Contest.

Board approved Sarah to provide limited support to the Bonner County Fair Board or staff in creating the framework of a five-year plan based on her experience in drafting and revising the District's annual and five-year plan for Board supervisor review and adoption. Discussion was had on potential future partnership on grants with the Fair.

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes



Cedar Springs Community: Sarah discussed a project in the Talache area where a community of residents have issues with the water supply and distribution systems, as they are outdated and some damage. They reached out to make an appointment for discussion of a possible grant managed by the District. The Board expressed concern about the workload and taking on too much. After discussion the board approved Sarah to take an initial meeting to view the water system and determine if the project potentially aligned with the District and would be a viable future grant project and partnership.

POSFI Kitchen: Harry mentioned the kitchen is still getting a lot of use and new clients are signing up to use it. There was a recent Daily Bee article highlighting POSFI

Motion to adjourn at 2:47 pm by Harry, seconded by Jeff.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

Dale Van Stone
District Supervisor Signature

March 3, 2026
Date