

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting



Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: CREC Conference Room, 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220, Sandpoint ID 83864
* Zoom info at bottom of agenda

Attendance

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

Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD; Tom Fler, BSWCD; Molly McCahon, BSWCD/Lakes Commission.

Via Zoom: Jim Stevens, BSWCD; Kaitlyn Parks, ISWCC; Jen Jensen, UI Extension.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

A) Call to Order

1. **Action Item:** October 2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve October 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Jeff, Seconded by: Rick
Motion carried.
2. **Action Item:** September 2025 Financial Report
Motion to approve September 2025 Financial Reports: Harry, Seconded by: Jeff
Motion carried. DEQ still has to pay BSWCD ~ \$57K for the Pack River project. For PSP, just received packout numbers and will send out invoices to all the districts.

B) Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

1. AIS Boat Stations - Tom Fler
 - a. **Action Item:** Workstation desk awards
 - i. Marie Barber - Motion to approve a one-time payment to Marie Barber for creating a workstation and effort to do so and to increase payment from suggested \$25 to \$50 by Jeff, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
 - ii. Bruce Reimer - Motion to approve a one-time payment to Bruce Reimer for creating a workstation and effort to do so and to increase payment from suggested \$75 to \$100 by Jeff, seconded by Chris. Motion carried. Tom recommended metal desks at each station and provided a link in his handout of where to purchase them.
 - b. **Action Item:** Bonuses
Motion to approve to give end of year bonuses to each boat station supervisor in the amount of \$250 and Tom Fler in the amount of \$500 by Rick, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
 - c. **Action Item:** Recommendations
Sarah noted these recommendations will be used as talking points with ISDA. Motion to approve recommendations and improvements for next year by Harry, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

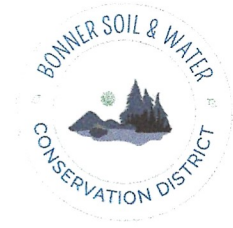
(See handout by Tom) 600 boats total in October inspected. 2700 in total for Albeni, 107 for Clark Fork, which is busier this time of year. Not a lot of hot washes for the year, less than 24 total of all three stations. Reviewed year-end evaluations: everyone liked the training this year, which was a 2-day training. The second day is to go out to look at boats. Documentation - new law this year that if out of state then need proof to show that you were inspected. Inspectors had

recommendations for both ISDA and BSWCD. Our Sheriff patrol contract was not signed this year until July. Issue of permanent signs at Clark Fork and Albeni. Clark Fork could be a personal liability issue due to tripping near the sign- should be addressed with ISDA. No pay raise for the past three years from ISDA. Jim Woodward met with JFAC. Other districts are receiving 12% more pay than our district. In total, of the 24 stations in the state ISDA operates 6-8 of those. Amazon moved into the community and offers a higher pay, which has implications for inspectors to leave. It is unknown if the 3% holdback has impacted AIS programs. Molly noted LC has less contact with ISDA than in the past. She also noted rapid response plans in the community. ISDA did not attend her LC meeting.

2. **Lakes Commission – Molly McCahon:** Dale, Sarah, and Rick attended the Lakes Commission meeting. Priest River change of operations. Everyone is pleased with the draw down each year. IDWR/ Michelle's information was received well. Lake level improvement has been worked on for a long time. Political parties have more optics on dam operations. Risk of gates failing identified - drained lake and power to BPA. Economic impact study by UofI. LPO is operating and is losing money. There is a desire to have lake level higher in winter time with no impact on environmental health. House energy bill has 188 days to report back to Congress on draw down. Step in the right direction for alternatives. There was discussion on the reason gates have restricted operations. Due to delamination of the metal to lessen environmental impact of delamination. There is a spare dam. They are going to build a new gate. It was noted they can manage lake levels through powerhouse. Discussion on floods and if predictable and how to manage with gates opened or closed. Lakes Commission is potentially on Idaho DOGE. Molly received several calls from the governor's office to provide an explanation of the LC's work. There was an original motion to ask JFAC to get rid of commissions/entities, but then changed to take a look at them closer. Each has statutory requirements.
Sagle Sewer and Water District groundwater overlay study is proposed with the idea to protect source water that is not well known/understood. This is due to new population growth and where land use is a county process.
Priest Lake maps are all given out. They are distributed throughout the community.
Molly to talk with Brent Baker to set up IT for LC meetings to have a successful virtual option.
3. **SWCC – Kaitlyn Parks:** Match funding process and districts should have been received this week or next. Performance reports due December 20th. Landgon Group met on October 28th and noted stakeholder participation was good. They will present at the IASCD conference. Sarah mentioned that Langdon Group gave the impression the deal between ISWCC and IDWR was a done deal. Some southern districts oppose it and could be a hot button for them as IDWR is a very regulatory agency.
4. **UI Extension – Jennifer Jensen:** Food Summit is coming up on Friday and Saturday. It is a vendor event that highlights food producers. Five workshops highlighting seeds, orchards, canning, boilers, etc. November classes include wreath making at Blanchard and Priest River sites. December 3rd is a pesticide workshop that is approved for 4 credits with a few different types of presentations.

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting



C) District Business

1. IASCD Conference
 - a. **Action Item:** Voting Delegate - Discussion on who can vote. Tom Daniels is the representative until the end of the IASCD conference, then Jeff will take over. Motion to approve Dale and Jeff as voting delegates by Harry, seconded by Chris. Motion carried.
2. **Action Item:** Health Insurance (Regence) - If BSWCD stays with current policy it will increase \$120/month. Several options are available in the new policy. A decision on which to go with is due in December. Coverage is for Sarah and Molly. Molly's LC budget does not include room for increase, so would need to come out of some other line item.
3. BAG Meeting report: Julie attended the meeting on Oct. 9th. State-level DEQ rep, Bonnie Yoshizaki, noted 319 funding has not been received from EPA with no update on when. Everything is ready to go when it is received, however. There were 14 applications received last year with 4.2 million requested and this year there are 23 applications with 4 million requested. 1.47 million was awarded for ranked projects. Question was raised on when vs. if funds would be received and she noted that not sure and that the EPA has been transparent with nothing to question receipt of funding. If budgets on ranked projects have changed, she will work with each project admin on what that would look like. She has not heard if the future of funding is compromised, but that there are just delays. Nov. 12th is the SuperBAG meeting.
4. **Action Item:** Water Festival Contractor Agreement - Motion to approve contract agreement with Gail Bolin for 2026 Water Festival by Rick, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.
5. Appreciation Dinner - Hydra, Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 5pm - Molly suggested donating funds used for dinner to a local food bank. Sarah suggested if there may be a political bias seen in the District. Discussion on how much to give and to which food bank. Chris suggested Bonner Community Food Bank. **Action Item:** Motion to donate \$600 to Bonner Community Food Bank and forego dinner at Hydra by Chris, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.
6. ICRMP - Respectful workplace training video - Training tabled as there was not enough time per a scheduling conflict for the conference room. Will schedule for a noon time at next month's meeting in December.

D) District Update

1. BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia
IASCD Resolutions - There are two resolutions from Steve Becker and one from Portneuf District. They should have been sent out by Tom Daniels and gone over line item by line item. Portneuf's resolution notes NRCS is having a difficult time keeping personnel due to cost of living. BSWCD board reviewed each resolution in detail.

IASCD Board meeting via Zoom - Sarah noted this meeting was all over the place and they did not want to fully elaborate on issues. Also, they shouldn't be discussing what the resolution is about without bringing it to the floor. She noted the IASCD Board has no idea how to run a conference. She spent 16 hours with the conference coordinator. Travis had nothing done for the conference before he left his position.

The current IDEA president has not responded to anyone in 6-8 weeks. Sarah has taken on all

efforts, therefore. She sent out a survey to all district admins. Depending on how the conference goes this year, she may step down as VP for IDEA Board. She described the previous president and his performance in the years he served. Rick asked if there was a fee for IDEA and she said yes.

CO-OP newsletter - articles submitted for AIS, tree sales, and the Pack River streambank project. Newsletter comes out in early December.

AIS stickers - regular customers are known by boat inspectors but not Sheriff patrols.

Discussion on IASCD Lobbyist and Executive Director position(s) and the IASCD Board's handling of them/it.

January is the Legislative Social. Sarah asked board members if they would like to attend.

Motion to adjourn at 3:01 pm by Chris, seconded by Rick.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

Wale Van Stone _____
District Supervisor Signature Date 12/02/25