Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

# Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

# Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS John Gaddess, BSWCD/IDL

Alice Wallace, BSWCD Sarah Garcia, BSWCD Molly McCahon POBC

Terry McGuirk, BSWCD Jennifer Jensen, U of I

Harry Menser, BSWCD Jessica Erikson, PRWC

Jim Stevens, BSWCD Brad Shelton, SWCC

Absent: Cassie Tauber, BSWCD:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03p by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alice moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to approve the October minutes, *the motion carried.*

**Financial Report:** Harry moved, and Alice seconded, the motion to approve the October financials, *the motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Boat Station Report:** Sarah reported the final payment for the 2018 Boat Stations was received in the mail the morning of the board meeting. Due to running in the red for the wrap up of the season meant the payment was the exact amount and no carryover for 2019 Boat season.

**IFOA Meeting:** Sarah provided a written report of the IFOA meeting including interactions that took place prior to the meeting with KSS Board Members, current pack out numbers, and the discussion that related to the Districts 60-day notice. Terry moved, and Harry seconded a motion to write a letter to the KSS Board, *the motion carried*.

**Election/Public Outreach:** Dale provided an overview of the KPRV Radio Interview as well as the candidates forum, as well as the article in the reader. Discussion was had as to the benefit these events have provided for getting public understanding of the Districts benefits.

**Conference-** Hotel registration & conference agendas were provided to each member who will be attending.

**Sarah’s Schedule:** Sarah reviewed her schedule with the board for the upcoming weeks as she would be out of the office for the conference and field days.

**319 Grant:** 319 grant approval paperwork for East Spring Creek was received and requires additional information

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2019 District Goals:** The Board decided they would schedule a work day to complete an annual work plan as well as review and update the 5yr plan

**Health Insurance:** Group Insurance being reviewed to be presented at December Board meeting

**Office Food drive/Holiday Donation:** Terry suggested Food for our Children as this year’s charity donation, Dale requested she also review if there was a specific family in the elementary schools that would benefit from a focused donation, Terry agreed to reach out.

**Christmas Party:** The board determined that Wednesday would be the best day of the week for all members and chose Ivano’s as their location. Amanda/Sarah will coordinate the details and send out the invite.

**Civil Rights/EEO:** There are no updates to civil rights at this time.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Greg Becker:** Greg reported that it was a busy October with NRCS annual Spot checks, compliance review for H.E.L., and completing CSP renewals. Currently there are about 75-80 EQIP applications between Bonner & Boundary Counties. 3 structural projects are in progress or recently completed between the two counties including Lightning Creek which took 10 days and was finished just in time for all of the rain that would have forced the work to cease. The other two structure projects are in Boundary county one is completed and the other is slated to start next week. Greg informed the Board that the Soil Con. Position vacated by James had been closed for 7weeks, but he had not received the applicant list. The forester position vacated by Kirk is expected to be posted soon but no firm timeframe. The two counties Greg oversees have gone from 5 employees to 2 in a very short time. Greg was also just informed that there may be a delay in the detail position who was scheduled to assist for 120 days currently slated to start 11/19.Greg indicated he would like to provide Sarah with more training to be able to assist the NRCS to complete site evaluations and customer service as these have all suffered due to the staff shortage. Jessica Erickson also indicated she would be interested in helping and receiving additional training. Alice made a motion to write a letter of support to make filling these positions a priority and approving for Sarah to receive more training and provide assistance to NRCS, Terry seconded*, the motion carried.*

**POBC Molly McCahon:** Molly gave an overview of her recent Lakes Commission meeting, she thanked Dale & Terry for attending and presenting on behalf of BSWCD. Molly reviewed the BNSF response plan for a spill and the information that was shared in regards to this at the L.C. meeting. She made the Board aware that Kathy Cousins of Idaho Fish and Game sought a letter of support to purchase an amphibious vehicle for use in the restoration of the Clark fork & Priest River Deltas.

**Bonner County Weed Dept. Chase Youngdahl :** Chase informed the Board that Cassie Olson has agreed to be the secretary for the Selkirk Weeds Cooperative. East half of the county was sprayed for noxious weeds this year. Anecdotally commented on the effectiveness of treating flowering rush with aquatic herbicide but not permitted use by landowners was discussed and the challenges this presents. Referenced a University of Montana study that has utilized white smut pathogen to treat flowering rush.

Chase indicated that the county does have both an equipment loan and possible cost sharing program to treat noxious weeds. Sarah and Chase will connect more on this so that she is able to provide this important information to the public who come into the office looking for this information.

**U of I Extension Jennifer Jensen:** Jennifer informed the Board of the great turnout the new organic orchard campus had for their open house. At this time the location will be only for university programs/events, but a task force is being formed to review future use. They have also received a grant to implement a native plant garden at the site. They are hoping to bring more in-depth programs/conferences/workshops that target beginning farmers and ranchers to include farm planning, livestock & crop production and rotation. They are excited to have a stronger presence in Bonner County with this new acquisition.

**Pack River Watershed Council Jessica Erickson:** Jessica recently completed a site tour of Caribou & Hell Roaring Creeks with Geo-Engineers & Ken Bouwens of IDFG/Avista; they completed field assessments and began to draft streambank restoration plans as well as a habitat assessment for bull & wet slope cut throat trout. A red count was also completed with on the Pack River & Caribou, 134 and 70 were counted respectively. The temperature monitoring in the pack has come to a close with 6yrs of data uploaded.

**SWC Report Brad Shelton:** Brad thanked the group for their well wishes on his new son. He informed the board that he had helped Sarah with some questions on the 319 paperwork and that he, Greg, and Sarah would be completing a county resource evaluation tour at the end of the month to have additional projects lined up to complete future 319 applications.

**Bonner SWCD by Sarah Garcia:** Sarah informed the group of the work that had been completed in October including the public outreach events, recapped our work for the Division & subsequent IFOA meetings, and upcoming Conference. She also informed the Board of several upcoming U of I courses that she would like to attend to expand her knowledge specifically tree related. The Board encouraged Sarah to take advantage of all training opportunities available.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16p.

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District Supervisor Signature Date