

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 5th, 2018
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID



Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Brad Shelton, SWCC
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD	Greg Becker, NRCS
Terry McGuirk, BSWCD	Glenn Kibbey, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, POBC
Amanda Abajian, BSWCD	Jennifer Jensen, U of I

Absent: Alice Wallace, BSWCD; Jessica Erikson, PRWC

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

Approval of Minutes: Dale advised that a correction needed to be made to the attendance on the May minutes. The May 2018 minutes were revised to account Cassie Tauber, BSWCD as absent.

Terry moved, seconded by Cassie, to approve the May 2018 minutes with the revision, *the motion carried.*

Financial Report: Cassie moved, and Terry seconded, the motion to approve the May financials, *the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

Caribou & Hellroaring Habitat Prioritization Assessment: Amanda presented to the board the contract for the Caribou & Hellroaring Habitat Prioritization Assessment. Cassie moved, seconded by Terry, to approve and sign the contract with Avista, *the motion carried.*

Forestry Contest: Amanda reported the 36th annual Forestry Contest was a great success! Once again, a new record number of participants attended, for a total of **600** students and **300** volunteers! There were **116** Junior and Senior contestants, **170** Rookies (on two courses), and **300** Novices (on three courses). We saw all types of North Idaho springtime weather on contest day, but it did not deter the students from giving it their all.

A shout out is due to the wonderful teachers, coaches, and coach assistants from the forestry community who dedicate their time to helping the students study before the competition. Another huge thank you to all our volunteers and donors who stepped up to make this big educational event happen once again! It truly does take a village – or maybe a city!

Amanda advised the board that she would like to send flowers as a thank you to the Forestry Contest coordinator Karen Robinson for all the hard work and dedication she shows to the contest every year. The district supervisors agreed and voiced how grateful they are to have an individual like Karen to put the contest on.

Water Festival: The 2018 Water Festival was held on May 17th & 18th at the Riley Creek Campground in Laclede. Amanda reported that the festival was successful again this year, despite the downpour of rain that took place on Thursday of the festival. This year there were around 424 students over two days. The district would like to thank Gail Bolin for all her hard work as the Water Festival Coordinator!

Funding Meeting w/County Commissioners: Amanda advised the board that the letter of intent was received from the county commissioners office for FY2019 funding of \$12,500.

Tree Seedling Sale Update: Amanda advised the board that she has been discussing the future of the tree seedling program with the other district managers and an idea was brought to the table by Bob Flagor. He put forward the idea of having one of the district employees manage the program, rather than having IFOA hire another individual to manage the program and inventory. The district employee would have direct knowledge of how the program is ran between the districts, and would be constantly up to date on the status of inventory throughout the sale. Leann Daman with Benewah expressed her interest in being the district employee to take on this responsibility. Bob Flagor presented the above idea to Paul Buckland with IFOA who was hesitant due to his concern of a conflict of interest.

The board advised that if IFOA was uninterested in having a district employee manage the program than they would prefer to cut ties with IFOA and bring the tree seedling program directly to the districts. Amanda advised she will let the board of supervisors know when a meeting date is set where the ultimate decision will hopefully be made.

Approval of Boat Station Attendant New Hires: Three more attendant interviews were conducted for the boat stations due to loss in pre-committed employees. Offered 1 part time position for Clark Fork, 1 part time for Samuels and 1 floating position to fill in at any of the three stations Amanda presented to the board the list of attendant new hires for each station. Harry moved, and Terry seconded, the motion to approve all 3 new hires for the Bonner County Boat Inspection Stations, *the motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

Boat Station Update: Glenn Kibbey reported to the board that after working out different crises' at the opening of the boat inspection season, it seems like things are finally moving along smoothly. We have continued to work to fill employment gaps in the program as they pop up, and now have hired a floating position for all stations in case any other employees are lost. Samuels station being located at the old weigh station has been widely accepted by the local boaters due to easier access by car traffic.

Farm Tour: Amanda advised the board that the Bonner County Farm Tour is coming up on June 14th. This year's tour will be held in the Selle Valley and will be visiting multiple locations including an alpaca farm and a lavender farm. Terry McGuirk advised she would like to go on the farm tour this year along with Amanda. Kirk Sehlmeier with the NRCS and the summer intern Thaius will also be joining in for this year's tour.

Supervisor Mileage: Amanda advised the board that mileage reports are filled out and ready for approval and signature. Supervisors reviewed the mileage reported for January through June and supplied Amanda with the signed form. Amanda provided reimbursement checks to the board supervisors.

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

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Greg Becker: Greg reported 1. The WRE agreement for Reynolds property is signed and ready to go. Greg advised that they are putting the new 2018 agreements on hold until prior agreements are caught up, which will put this new agreement on "hold" until his easement is closed. Sage is the company that will be used to install the faux beaver dams.

U of I Jennifer Jensen: Jennifer reported 1. Annual Bonner County Farm Tour will be taking place next Thursday, June 14th in the Selle Valley, 2. Beginning farmer/rancher program "starting your sustainable small farm" will be visiting two farms to wrap up the program, 3. There is a new director of the Bonner County Fair – Darcey Smith, 4. Jennifer advised she is hoping to do a pasture workshop this fall.

SWCC Brad Shelton: Brad reported 1. The fiscal year ends at the end of June, and 2. They are working on river bank work on the Pack River up above Samuels by the Pack River bridge.

POBC Molly McCahon: Molly reported: 1. she attended the Idaho Invasive Species Council Meeting in Boise. ISDA reported that they would be surveying Lake Pend Oreille (LPO) and the Pend Oreille River (POR) soon

and will be treating as soon as conditions are optimal. 2. There is \$250,000 available for Aquatic Weed Management for all of Idaho. Molly emphasized to ISDA the need for treatment to LPO and POR as we haven't seen treatment in years. Molly is working with Chase Youngdahl on a proposal for Flowering rush suction harvesting through the Selkirk CWMA. 3. Molly meet with the BOR while in Boise to discuss coordination with Hungry Horse on dam operations in relation to LPO lake levels. 4. Molly announced her agenda for the next Lakes Commission meeting on June 15th, which can be found at lakes-commission.com.

Bonner SWCD by Amanda Abajian: Amanda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes.

Executive Session - as per Idaho Code 67-2345: The board went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of May minutes

Approval of May financials

Approval of the Caribou & Hellroaring Habitat Prioritization Assessment contract with Avista

Approval of the boat station attendant new hires