

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 6th, 2018
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID



Attendance:

Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Greg Becker, NRCS
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD	Amanda Abajian, BSWCD
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, POBC
Terry McGuirk, BSWCD	Jessica Erikson, PRWC
Belinda Knapton, BSWCD	

Absent: Cassie Tauber, BSWCD; Jessica Erikson, PRWC
Guest: Tom Herron, IDEQ, Ken Thacker

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace. Alice welcomed our guests Tom Herron and Ken Thacker to the board meeting. Ken introduced himself as a retired forester from BLM and expressed his interest in running for the Bonner SWCD board this fall.

Approval of Minutes: Dale moved, seconded by Cassie, to approve the January 2018 minutes, *the motion carried.*

Financial Report: Cassie moved, and Dale seconded, the motion to approve the January 2018 financials, *the motion carried.*

Idaho Envirothon Donation: Dale moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion to donate \$50.00 to the 2018 Idaho Envirothon, *the motion carried.*

Dale moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion to remove Herman Collins from all active financial accounts for Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District, *the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Assist Coordinator: Tom Herron with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality emphasized the need for North Idaho representation for water quality concerns since North Idaho has the largest amount of natural water bodies per capita. There is currently a Lake Assist manual that has been handed out for Lake Pend Oreille and Priest Lake, but the most need for a Lake Assist assistance is currently in Coeur D'Alene. The idea was presented of having a water quality coordinator in the office that is not solely Lake Assist, and Tom advised that DEQ would be in support of that option. Funding from DEQ would be limited for the position, but available. Dale Van Stone expressed the idea of creating a position with multiple funding sources.

Molly McCahon advised that The Lakes Commission has provided support for the Lake Assist position in the past, and would be interested in doing so again in the future. Bonner SWCD has also been a large part of funding the Lake Assist position in the past, and the board expressed their interest in being able to help do so in the future. The board decided the next step would be to do a thorough review of the district's current finances and decide what level of funding for a position we would be able to provide.

IASCD Legislative Days Report: Amanda reported Cassie Olson from Boundary County also attended Legislative Days in Boise with Amanda and was able to help setup a display that was representative of Division I as a whole. Amanda presented to the board that during her time in Boise at the Capitol she was able to meet with each representative from North Idaho. The trip was very rewarding and informative for both Cassie and Amanda.

Tree Sale Advertising: Amanda advised the board that after the recommendations she received at the last board meeting she created an ad that could be sent out to local papers as a PSA. The Sandpoint Reader printed the advertisement in their next edition which helped to generate interest in the sale from the community. Amanda also printed out multiple copies of the advertisement and posted them around Bonner County on different community boards.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Dale recommended, and the board agreed, to leave the officer positions for Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District “as is” for 2018.

Boat Station Supervisor: Alice advised that we need a full sitting board to approve a new hire. The board decided to hold a special meeting on February 27th at 10 am to review the hiring process for the boat supervisor position and the possibility of hiring for a water quality office coordinator.

Technical Assistance Request: Amanda reviewed the technical assistance request for Brad Shelton and Bill Lillibridge for FY2019 from the Soil & Water Conservation Commission with the board that she created with Greg Becker. The board approved the request as is. Amanda also advised the board that they need to approve changing Brad Shelton’s current hours for FY2018 from the Schweitzer project that did not take place to more meeting hours and time for creating the Bonner County Natural Resource Inventory. Cassie moved, and Dale seconded, the motion to move 10 hours to board meetings and 30 hours to creating the natural resource inventory for Brad Shelton’s technical assistance time in FY2018, *the motion carried.*

Division I Meeting: Amanda advised the board that the spring Division I meeting will be held on March 23rd in Boundary County at the Wildlife Refuge.

Tree Seedling Pickup: Amanda reported that the tree seedling pickup date will be April 4th at Funk property in Coeur D’Alene. Dale Van Stone, Greg Becker

Fly Fishing Film Tour: Amanda presented that the Fly Fishing Film Tour will be held at the Panida on March 24th. Volunteers are needed to help with ticket and raffle sales. Proceeds will be equally split between the Water Festival and Trout Unlimited Panhandle Chapter.

Forestry Contest: The 36th annual Forestry Contest will be held on May 10th at the Delay Farm.

Water Festival: The Water Festival will be held on May 17th & 18th at the Riley Creek Campground.

Civil Rights / EEO: There were no updates to Civil Rights/EEO.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Greg Becker: Greg reported that the pathways student intern for NRCS will be starting in our office at the end of May. Greg also reported that NRCS is still currently in the “hiring slowdown”, and employee responsibilities are being spread out between current employees in the division. Currently there are 70 applications in for EQIP programs between Bonner and Boundary County, and a wetland restoration easement application has been signed.

POBC & LAS Molly McCahon: Priest Lake Water Management Funding Update –The Governor has approved 2.4 million to fund the improvements to Outlet Dam, which would raise the lake to 3.5’ in dry years. This is a better than what was in place as it allows statutory lake levels to be reached while at the same time maintaining flows to Priest River. IDWR has found funds in the amount of 2.4 million to be used toward the Thorofare dredging and breakwater repair, but the Governor did not put that in his budget and has requested the local community and IDWR look for those funds. So, it appears the county and the group Save the Thorofare have committed to finding the remaining \$200,000 needed. The Governor still needs to approve the redirect of funding IDWR wants to use.

Idaho F&G and BPA have developed a draft Wildlife Mitigation Agreement for Albeni Falls Dam that is up for public comment. This is a 30 year agreement that is intended to totally resolve mitigation and operations damages from the dam. IDFG will receive approximately 24 million over these 30 years. Projects will focus on Clark Fork Delta restoration and the Priest River Delta.

PRWC Jessica Erikson: Jessica reported that she has been working to create different design options for signs to be posted along the Pack River to help prevent the garbage problem. Jessica presented multiple options to the board with a simple but direct message to pack out garbage. Cassie moved, and Dale seconded, the motion to approve purchasing 4 signs to place along the Pack River to advise visitors to pick up their garbage, the motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of January minutes

Approval of January financials

Approval of donating \$50 to the 2018 Idaho Envirothon

Approval of removing Herman Collins from all district financial accounts

Approval of transferring Brad Shelton's current technical assistance hours to meetings and the natural resource plan

Approval of the PRWC purchasing 4 signs for garbage pickup to be placed along the Pack River