

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 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
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Brad Shelton, SWCC

Absent: Jennifer Jensen, U of I
Guest: Jim Stevens

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace. Alice welcomed our guest Jim Stevens to the board meeting. Greg Becker introduced Jim to the board as a long-time client of the NRCS.

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

Financial Report: Dale moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to postpone reviewing the February financials until the April meeting, *the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Assist Coordinator: The board advised it would be best to complete hiring for the upcoming boat inspection season before making any decisions about hiring for the Lake Assist position in our office. Funding is still the largest component that needs to be determined before any decision can be made. Cassie Tauber agreed to spend time with the district administrator reviewing the budget to determine what funding is available. Lake Assist will be revisited at the April board meeting.

Division I Meeting: The Spring Division I meeting will be held on March 23rd at the Wildlife Refuge in Boundary County. Terry McGuirk, Cassie Tauber, Alice Wallace, Molly McCahon, Greg Becker and Amanda Abajian plan to attend from Bonner County. Dale moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion for Bonner SWCD to pay registration fees for attendees and local legislators, *the motion carried.*

Tree Seedling Pickup: Amanda advised the board that the tree seedling pickup day will be April 4th from the Funk property in Coeur D'Alene again this year. Dale Van Stone and Greg Becker agreed to assist the district in picking up the seedlings and transporting them to the Delay Farm in Careywood. Dale moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion for the district to rent a U-Haul to pick up the seedlings in April, *the motion carried.*

Fly Fishing Film Tour: Amanda advised the board that the fly fishing film tour will be held on March 24th at the Panida theatre. The proceeds from ticket sales will be split between the Trout Unlimited Panhandle Chapter and the Water Festival.

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

Water Festival: The 2018 Water Festival will be held on May 17th & 18th at the Riley Creek Campground in Laclede.

NEW BUSINESS

Boat Station Supervisor: Alice provided an update on the status of hiring a boat station supervisor. Board members screened applicants and selected 10 individuals to come into the office for interviews. The first 5 interviews were held on March 6th, with a great pool of individuals. The next 5 interviews will be held on March 7th and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

FY2019 Annual Plan of Work and Update of 5 Year Plan: Amanda presented to the board the top 5 resource concerns that have been included in the annual and 5 year plan in the most recent years. The board agreed that only minor changes need to be made to both documents. It was decided to remove “purchase no till drill demo for local farmers” due to change in local needs. Cassie Tauber will come into office before due date to work through other needed changes on the annual and 5 year plan with Amanda.

Bonner County Fair: Amanda advised the board that the Bonner County Fair will be held on August 8th – 11th and this year’s theme is; “Good Old Days, Country Way”.

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

Board Changes: Dale moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to appoint Terry McGuirk as a new supervisor on the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District board, *the motion carried.*

Dale moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion to appoint Jim Stevens as a new associate to the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District board, *the motion carried.*

Harry moved, and Cassie seconded, the motion for Alice Wallace to step down as board chair and become vice chair and Dale Van Stone to step into the board chair position for the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District board of supervisors, *the motion carried.*

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Greg Becker: Greg reported that he has been very busy with snow surveys and snow depths are in the 120% range at high elevation. Lots of deep snow at normal density was observed through snow surveys as well. Greg advised that the NRCS snow survey website has great comprehensive data and is a good resource to be used. Amanda will forward snow survey link to BSWCD board. Greg advised that Boundary County is working on a landowner brochure specific to the county that will show all agency partnerships. Brochure will be a great demonstration of cooperation and coordination between agencies. Boundary is also currently working on an Ag Grant for an orchard at the high school.

POBC & LAS Molly McCahon: Molly introduced herself and the Lakes Commission to Bonner SWCD’s new associate Jim Stevens. The next Lakes Commission meeting will be hold on April 6th in Priest River at the Beardmore Building. The Lakes Commission legislative bill has been approved by the house and the senate and is awaiting the governor’s signature. Molly worked with USFWS to write a grant for \$30k for suction dredging of Trestle Creek and Dog Beach for flowering rush, BSWCD would administer funding.

PRWC Jessica Erikson: Jessica updated the board on the status of the Hellroaring Creek and Caribou Creek watershed assessment proposal in the Clark Fork Management agreement she is working with Ken Bouwens on, no news yet.

SWCC Brad Shelton: Brad advised the board that the Ag grant opportunity with the property owner in Priest River recently fell through. Property was sold to neighbor who is not able to meet match requirement for the project. Brad also reminded Bonner SWCD of the upcoming deadlines for the annual/5year plan and technical assistance request.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of February minutes

Approval of reviewing February financials at April board meeting

Approval of paying for district employees and legislators registration to Division meeting

Approval of renting U-Haul for tree seedling pickup

Approval of appointing Terry McGuirk as new supervisor on Bonner SWCD board

Approval of appointing Jim Stevens as new associate to the Bonner SWCD board

Approval of Alice Wallace becoming the new vice chair to the Bonner SWCD board

Approval of Dale Van Stone becoming new board chair to the Bonner SWCD board