Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

# Date: Tuesday, July 3rd, 2018

# Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD James Boyett, NRCS

Alice Wallace, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS

Terry McGuirk, BSWCD Jessica Erikson, PRWC

Molly McCahon, POBC Thaius Boyd, NRCS

Amanda Abajian, BSWCD

Absent: Cassie Tauber, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Brad Shelton, SWCC; Jennifer Jensen, U of I; Jim Stevens, BSWCD

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Tree Seedling Sale:** Dale reported that he attended the IFOA tree seedling meeting with district employee Amanda, board associate Jim Stevens, and Kirk Sehlmeyer with the NRCS. Kirk presented to the IFOA committee the district’s idea to transfer the program from IFOA to the districts. This would allow the district’s to have direct control of the program and cut out the middle man. Benewah SWCD and Boundary SCD were in support of the idea, and Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD advised they needed more information before making a decision.

IFOA was open to the idea of the transfer, as long there is no legal issue with transferring the seedlings program directly to the districts. Bonner SWCD advised IFOA they would reach out to the Attorney General’s office and confirm there would be no legal conflict of interest.

**Farm Tour 2018:** Amanda advised the group from the office that attended the farm tour agreed it was a successful year. Location highlights from the tour were the Pack River Farm and the Alpaca Farm out in the Selle Valley.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**The Lakes Commission:** Molly reported on the agreement to hire special council for the Lakes Commission to help provide assistance and guidance with the Columbia River Treaty. The deputy attorney for the Lakes Commission has provided legal review of the agreement and has advised of his approval. The agreement will be between Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District, The Lakes Commission and Norm Semanko, Parsons Behle & Latimer. Norm has a lot of experience working with the cooperative agencies dealing with the Columbia River Treaty and will be able to provide support and guidance to Molly. The agreement start date is July 1st. Alice moved, and Terry seconded, the motion for Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District to enter into agreement with Norm Semanko, Parsons Behle & Latimer to provide special council to The Lakes Commission, *the motion carried.* Molly will be touring two Canadian Dams with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region later this month.

**Audit 2018:** Amanda presented the audit proposal to the board from Leonard Schulte for the FY2018 audit. Alice moved, and Terry seconded, the motion to approve the FY2018 audit proposal from Leonard Schulte, *the motion carried.*

**Bonner County Fair 2018:** Amanda advised the board that the fair is fast approaching. The theme for this year’s fair is “Good Old Days, Country Ways” and will be held on Aug 8-11.

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

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS James Boyett:** James Boyett has been acting DC since May 29. 32 official 2018 contracts for Bonner County. 6 have been completed already. 4 Livestock, 3 high tunnels, 23 Forestry, 2 Hayland rehab. Office still short staffed with Greg acting AC in Moscow, but he should be back full time DC in Sandpoint starting July 9th. Lots of field work as a result for other two employees in field office. Secretary Perdue visited U of I yesterday and Sandpoint Field Office has prepared in case he decides to visit the northern Division. Division 1 holding a pasture/range training with Brendan Brazee, NRCS State Range Specialist, July 9-10 to be held in SP-FO. Pathways Student Thaius Boyd has been an excellent addition to the field staff. He has learned very quickly and seems to be a great fit. HR has finally got him access to all of the USDA programs that he will need to fully perform the job. NRCS presented WebSoilSurvey at the forestry short-course on June 20th.

**PRWC Jessica Erikson:** Jessica reported they are moving forward with the Caribou and Hellroaring Creek habitat prioritization and proposals were submitted today from contractors. Avista’s timeline for the projects is for work to be done this summer. Jessica is also working on a plan for the Upper Pack River, and has put together a working group to help with ideas for specific projects that could be impactful.

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:02.

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District Supervisor Signature Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of June minutes

Approval of June financials

Approval of the Lakes Commission agreement for special council with Parsons Behle & Latimer

Approval of the FY2018 audit proposal

*All services of the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to national origin, race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Auxiliary aides or services for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please call 263-5310 five (5) days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made.*