

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave Ste. 101, Sandpoint, ID \* Zoom Teleconference

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### Attendance:

*Board members:* Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Brad Bluemer, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD *Others:* Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Georja Kriebs, BSWCD; Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC; Chris Elliott, George Gehring  
*Zoom Attendees:* Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC

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

### Call to Order 1:00 PM

#### 1. **Action Item: January 2024 Minutes**

Motioned to approve minutes with correction to Dale's name by: Jeff      Second by: Rick      Motion carried

#### 2. **Action Item: Financial Reports**

##### a. **Action Item: Donations**

##### i. **Envirothon Donation**

Motioned to give \$100 donation by: Jeff      Second by: Harry      Motion carried

##### ii. **GFH Donation**

Motioned to give \$300 donation, with adding District logo to signs by: Rick      Second by: Harry      Motion carried

##### iii. **Idaho Ag In the Classroom**

Motioned to table donation discussion until more info is obtained by: Jeff      Second by: Harry      Motion carried

#### 3. **Action Item: 2024 Milage rate (GSA Rate for 2024 \$0.67)**

Motioned to approve new mileage rate by: Jeff      Second by: Rick      Motion carried

#### 4. **Action Item: Vehicle Maintenance**

Motioned to approve purchase obtaining all season tires as needed by: Jeff      Second by: Rick      Motion carried

Motioned to approved for repairs on vehicle. If repair is under \$1,000 district will pay out of pocket, otherwise used ICRMP by: Jeff      Second by: Harry      Motion carried

Motioned to authorize District Administrator Sarah Garcia to spend up to \$1,000.00 on vehicle expenses w/out action item in future by: Rick      Second by: Jeff      Motion carried

#### 5. **Action Item: Board Member Resignation**

Motioned to accept Brad's resignation and make him an Associate board member by: Rick      Second by: Jeff      Motion carried

### AGENCY REPORTS

*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.*

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**NRCS - Cindy Lewis:** 64% normal snowpack in Bonner/Boundary. Started EQIP Ranking by staff, with 102 applications currently. ACT Now funding is expedited funding but labor intensive frustrating. Grizzly Bear Summit. Thanks for the townhall attendance. In discussions with Idaho Fish and Game on migration cost and extending wildlife fencing. During discussions regarding potential grant projects The Board chair clarified that the Board wants the District Administrator to be involved from the beginning of any projects/grants that the District will be administering.

**George Gehring:** Gave an overview of his work with native insect pollinators, invertebrates, and native plants, etc. To create pollinator pathways here in Idaho. He has put together in the local library a 4-part lecture on March 5 at 6 PM, with the Kootenai Native Society.

**Water Festival-Sarah:** Meetings planning is starting in February per email from Gail.

**SWC Report – Jenna Ditzel:** WQPA \$2 mil of the \$5 mill spent, of project potentials. Potentially they will only receive \$1 million based on the governor’s recommendation. \$75,400 potentially match funding proposed. Changes to how they approve limits on award amount.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**Legislative Days Report - Sarah:** Sarah talked with 16 different legislatures. They had a little different display this year and made information cards to hand out about the boat stations. Board received kudos for all they have been doing.

**House Bill 403:** Sarah updated the board about an email received from Travis Jones regarding HB403 that was to be heard before the house just prior to the board meeting (2/6). This bill affects all districts and how they operate regarding board size as well as potential of Governor appointed positions. The district received the draft of the bill for the first time this morning, there has been no communication from the association directly related to this bill prior to morning’s email.

Motion to write a letter expressing their concerns about not being kept informed by: Rick	Second by: Jeff	Motion carried
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**AIS/ISDA Meeting Report:** Sarah updated the Board on her meeting with ISDA during her Boise trip. They anticipate MOU’s being similar to 2023. They heard our request for increased public outreach materials and better communication. If the District is able to secure the 8 months PERSI document adjustment in the legislature the district can enter into an amendment with ISDA to extend our season to address the late derbies & tournaments.

**Annual Plan of work/5yrs Plan- Due March 31<sup>st</sup>:** Reminder that this will need to be updated and submitted.

**Tree Seedling update:** Sales are about 80% sold and will be posting another advertisement on Facebook in February. Had a loss on Doug Fir and Ponderosa. Will be doing some testing on the seeds to better understand what happened. Still have White Pine, Larch, some cedar and some lodgepole

**Forestry Contest:** Dale & Jeff gave brief insight into the special meeting held with Steering committee prior to the Board meeting as well as the goal to move forward as equal partners. Erik Sjoquist & Ken Homik from IDL indicated they would draft an initial starting point for the MOU to share with the Board for edits.

**Grant Update:** Working with on a Rural Development grant for the kitchen must have submitted by the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Didn’t get the Compost grant this year but received great comments and plan on reapplying for the Composting grant in June. Will be working on applying for an Urban and Community Implementation Grant to support the community gardens portion of the Composting grant. Believe this will make the composting grant more competitive when reapplying.

**DISTRICT UPDATES**

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**BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:** Sarah provided a brief overview of how her time had been spent over the past month. She highlighted that the WQPA had been fully billed out and we were just waiting for reimbursement funding to send out landowner check. Additional grants are being wrapped up, reports completed & invoiced. A brief overview of upcoming months schedule.

**Action Item: Admin Assistant Position:**

Motioned to extend the position to June 30<sup>th</sup>, and revisit during budget process by: Jeff      Second by: Harry      Motion carried

Rick moved, seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting, meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Dale Van Fave      03/05/24  
District Supervisor Signature      Date

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