Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

# Date: Tuesday, June 4th, 2019

# Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: 1224 Washington Ave. Suite 101, Sandpoint, ID

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS Gail Bolin, Earthwise

Terry McGuirk, BSWCD Jennifer Jensen, U of I

Alice Wallace, BSWCD Brad Shelton, SWCC

Harry Menser, BSWCD Sarah Garcia, BSWCD

Jim Stevens, BSWCD Molly McCahon, POBC

Absent:; Jessica Erikson, PRWC; Chase Youngdahl, John Gaddess

The meeting was called to order at 1:06pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

**Approval of Minutes:** Alice moved, seconded by Jim, to approve the May 2019 minutes, *the motion carried.*

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Forestry Contest:** Thursday May 9th was the 37th annual Forestry Contest at Delay Farms. We had over 700 students with over 400 novices! The final newsletter for the 2019 Forestry Contest is attached. Jim educated the board on the Priest River Forest expo including potential partners/volunteers. The board also discussed with the changing dynamic some of the ways for the Forestry contest to continue to be viable

**Water Festival:** Gail provided the board with an initial wrap up report of the Water Festival. 470 Bonner County fifth graders attended the successful event. The instructor surveys have been returned and were very positive. Teachers noted the value of the educational material as well as the professionalism of the instructors. An emailed Thank you went out to each instructor and a thank you to sponsors will run in the newspaper soon. Gail informed the Board that she has been unable to make contact with the F3T representative regarding the final income from the event. A final report is anticipated in July. Gail asked the board for clarification if mileage reimbursement was separate from her hourly compensation not exceed total or separate. The board confirmed that it was a reimbursement and therefore not counted against her compensation total.

**Farm Tour 2019:** The Board was reminded that the Bonner County Farm tour will be held on Thursday June 13th. Harry informed everyone of the tour stops. Terry, Jim, and Sarah will be attending the event.

**Boat Station Report:**  Glenn was unable to attend the Board meeting but provided a written boat station update. The Board discussed the new law in Montana requiring ballasts & bladders to be decontaminated as well as a recent call from Kim Holzer along the same lines. In addition, the board was made aware of a new invasive species research group that is in the process of forming at the U of I.

**IFOA Tree Seedling program:** Sarah updated the board on the PSP meeting. The board was presented with the PSP Boards recommendation for pricing. Terry moved, and Jim seconded the motion to keep the 2019 pricing in place for the spring 2020 sale, *the motion carried.* With the changes in the program Sarah requested the boards approval to prepare a newsletter/flyer for the 2020 sale. Alice so moved, and Jim seconded, *the motion carried.* The 2021 order totals were discussed. Alice moved, and Jim seconded the motion for Sarah to place an appropriate order based on historical data up to a value of $75,000. *the motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**POBC Subaward:** The Board reviewed the subaward letter from DEQ to administer the funding for The Lakes Commission. Molly & Sarah informed the Board there would be subsequent agreements with The Lakes Commission and a professional service agreement with Norm Semanko that would be presented at the July meeting if approved at The Lakes Commission late June meeting. Alice moved, and Harry seconded the motion to continue administering The Lakes Commission funding for FY2020. *the motion carried.*

**2020 Bonner County Pre-Fair:** Sarah informed the board of the annual 2-day Pre-Fair event that takes place at the end of May annually where elementary students throughout the county participate in 7 rotating stations. Sarah requested the boards permission to sign up as a presenter for 2020. Terry moved, and Jim seconded the motion for BSWCD to be presenters at the 2020 Pre-Fair. *the motion carried.*

**Community Engagement:** The Board and meeting participants discussed the need to be a more visible community entity. The conversation also highlighted the need to be able to do more community outreach which we are currently limited in our ability due to lack of additional staffing. Additional funding sources were discussed as an option to be able to receive additional state funding match which would allow for additional personnel to be hired. Alice asked that the Board members name be added to the left-hand column of the letter head for future correspondence. The board decided to revisit this subject at the next meeting after everyone has had time to think of opportunities to increase our funding partnerships.

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

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Greg Becker:** Greg let the board know that the position vacated by Kirk Sehlmeyer 9 months ago is back on the radar and anticipated to eventually posted in the future as a soil conservationist. The Bonner/Boundary joint D.C. position has officially been posted and Greg has applied. The Grouse Creek project is moving forward and currently have received 2 out of 3 bids. Current low bid is $6,500 and the second is $7,300. Both are contractors that we have worked with in the past with good results, Greg recommended accepting the lowest bid. Alice moved, and Jim seconded the motion to accept the low bid if no additional bids are received of same quality at a lower cost. *the motion carried.*

Bonner County Road & Bridge has begun the work on E. Spring Creek rd for the 319 grant and the right of way has been cleared from highway to past the paving location. They are currently putting in culverts and grading the road. They expect to be paving by end of July. Lightning Creek work completed last fall is in place and has held better than expected due to a calm run off season. Mr. Heisels upstream neighbor has signed up with EQIP to continue the Stream bank stabilization project on his property. The work will likely be in the fall of 2020 as it will require Army Corp. & other permitting. Terry moved, and Harry seconded a motion to support and assist another Avista/Eqip project on private property on Lightning Creek.

**Lakes Commission Molly McCahon:** Molly updated the board on the traveling she has done over the past month to attend multiple meetings in Boise and elsewhere. Molly attended the May 8th AIS meeting in Boise and was able to foster some beneficial relationships. The increase in travel to various meetings has resulted in the Lakes Commission and subsequently North Idaho being on Boise’s radar. Molly touched on the ISDA’s new website which includes essentially the entirety of the Pend Oreille Basin in proposed treatment plans with no definitive treatment/timeline. The Lakes Commission have lobbied ISDA to provide a comprehensive scientific based management plan currently we have been provided a proposed blanket treatment plan. Molly attended a meeting with congressional staff, BPA, and Army Corp of Engineers. The next Lakes Commission will be held June 19th at the Event Center in Priest River.

**U of I – Jen Jensen:** Jen thanked the Board for the support letter for the beginning farmer rancher program. The grant review is this month. She informed the group of an upcoming cover crop demonstration and a master gardener will be demonstrating how to utilize various antique hand tools .

**Bonner SWCD by Sarah Garcia:** Sarah recapped the busy May season including the Forestry Contest & Water Festival. Sarah reminded the Board that as approved in May she would begin working four days a week June – September and that for the next 6 weeks she would be out of the office on Wednesday morning attending the U of I forestry short course.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37p.

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District Supervisor Signature Date

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