Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

# Date: Tuesday, May 7th, 2019

# Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

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

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS John Gaddess, IDL

Terry McGuirk, BSWCD Jennifer Jensen, U of I

Alice Wallace, BSWCD Brad Shelton, SWCC

Harry Menser, BSWCD Chase Youngdahl, Weed Sup.

Jim Stevens, BSWCD Sarah Garcia, BSWCD

Absent: Molly McCahon, POBC; Jessica Erikson, PRWC; Gail Bolin, Earthwise

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Forestry Contest:** Thursday May 9th is the 37th annual Forestry Contest at Delay Farms. We expect over 700 students with over 400 novices! Pre-registration is complete and 24 school, 4-h, and FFA groups will be competing. Sarah informed the board that the food orders have been placed half was delivered this morning with additional deliveries completed Wednesday. Volunteers were reminded to arrive no later than 7:15am to check in.

**Water Festival:** The Water Festival is on budget and moving forward on schedule. Set-up will be Wednesday May 15th volunteers will be meeting at the office to load out the storage units and deliver to Riley Creek campground. We are expecting 475 students our largest group to date!

**County Commissioners Funding:** The Board was presented with the letter of intent memorandum from the Bonner County Board of Commissioners indicating their intent to provide $14,500 funding in FY2020.

**IFOA Tree Seedling program:** Sarah & Greg updated the Board on the end of sale meeting with IFOA. Attached to these minutes is the overview of that meeting. The side commentary held by Steve Funk of IFOA and Stan Thornton of the KSS Board was discussed, the Board was disappointed to hear of the negative comments that were expressed. The Division along with the Panhandle Seedling Program are impacted in multiple ways by this ongoing behavior including but not limited to:

1. Damage to the unity of Division 1 and negative impact of ongoing & future mutual support
2. Prematurely damaging the public reputation of PSP before it has had the opportunity to provide any seedlings to customers

The board discussed with the PSP Board representatives’ ways to overcome this negativity for the 2020 seedling sale and beyond. The board requested that Sarah provide the KSS Board members with a copy of the May meeting minutes, in addition the board determined they would continue to closely monitor the situation and if necessary take further action to address this type of meritless commentary from negatively impacting the future of the PSP. The board was happy to hear that the overall interaction and discussion with IFOA was positive and focused on strengthening the partnership in other avenues for the future

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Boat Station Report:** Glenn was unable to attend the board meeting but provided a written update on the start of the Boat station season. The update is attached. Glenn highlighted & Sarah reiterated that providing uniforms for station attendants would be in the Districts interest to ensure that we are presenting a professional & impartial image. Jim recommended that the uniforms be returned at the end of the season. Terry moved, and Jim seconded the motion to provide Boat attendants with uniform hats & shirt that are to be returned at the end of the season. *the motion carried.*

**2019 Bonner County Farm Tour:** The Bonner County Farm tour will be visiting McKerracher Family Farm, Cocolalla Creek Sport Horse, Delay Farms, and Triple T Nursery. The Tour is Thursday June 13th. Previously the board approved to pay for any board members or district employees who would like to attend. Terry, Alice, Jim and Sarah indicated they would like to attend, Harry will be attending as a co-host of the farm tour.

**U of I Letter of Support:**  Jennifer Jensen of the U of I presented to the Board on the Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program which she and other U of I educators are submitting a grant application to be able to bring to Bonner County. With the increase in Bonner County of small landowners with a renewed emphasis on sustainability this is an opportunity to provide these new operators with the tools to be successful! Alice moved, and Jim seconded the motion to submit a letter of Support for the BFRDP and provide support as appropriate to Jen and the U of I team, *the motion carried.*

**BSWCD Audit:** Sarah had previously provided Board members with the 2018FY audit via email for their review. Harry moved, and Terry seconded the motion to accept the FY2018 audit from Leonard Shulte, CPA.

**ISDA Meeting -Boat station MOU:** Board members reviewed the MOU from ISDA for the 3 boat stations in Bonner County. Terry moved, and Harry seconded the motion to accept and sign the MOU with ISDA to operate the AIS inspection stations in our county. Harry moved, and Jim seconded the motion to hire attendants Shandi & Denise for the Clark Fork and Albeni stations as well as give Sarah and Glenn Kibbey the authority to interview & hire new attendants meeting job requirements as well as to rehire former attendants. *the motion carried.*

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

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Greg Becker:** Greg informed the board that he recently met with the county on the E. Spring Creek 319 project. They have begun clearing the right away. The County will be paving East Spring Creek in addition to the 6/10 mile that are covered by the 319 grant. Woods Crushing & Hauling won the bid to complete the paving project and the work will begin as soon as the prep work is complete. Greg updated the board that the lightning creek EQIP project is holding strong. The embedded wood structures & willow slips are doing well and taking root. With Bill Lillibridge’s encouragement we will be adding additional willows in the stretch to continue to catch & slow large woody debris in an effort to continue to restore the flood plain.

Sarah informed the board that Bill had reached out regarding his remaining 58hrs that we had requested for FY19. With the earlier delays of the 319 project we will not be utilizing these hours by the end of the Fiscal year. Alice moved, and Harry seconded the motion to release the remaining 58.5 hrs. of Bill Lillibridge’s time that had been allocated to BSWCD for FY19 back to the Commission with the ability for Bill to utilize discretionary hours on our behalf if needed. *the motion carried.*

Greg updated the board that the Hickson agreement between the landowner, NRCS, ID Fish & Wildlife, and BSWCD is ready to be signed. Alice moved, and Jim seconded the motion to move forward with the Hickson/Grouse Creek project, *the motion carried*. Greg anticipates utilizing Jessica Erickson to be the project manager completing the permitting processes as well as working closely with the all parties. Jessica’s hours can be billed to grant.

The first round of approvals/funding for the NACD/NRCS/District shared position went to agreement renewals. We have not heard when the if/when the second round will be announced. There may be another possible state funding source involving NRCS & the District. Greg will keep the Board updated as the information becomes available.

**Bonner County Weed Dept. Chase Youngdahl:** Chase provided the board & district with the new Selkirk Cooperative Weed management book that was fully funded by the Kootenai Tribe. The Weed Dept. is headed into their busy season and the West side of the County will be sprayed this year.

**Bonner SWCD by Sarah Garcia:** Sarah updated the board on the work completed so far for the Forestry Contest, as well as the Water Festival. Much of the work completed this month had previously been discussed during the board meeting. She did inform the board that the PSP Board will be meeting on May 30th @2pm and invited any interested to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55p.

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District Supervisor Signature Date

*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.*