

Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: CREC Conference Room, 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220, Sandpoint ID 83864

Attendance

Board members: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Chris Elliott, BSWCD.

Others: Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD; Tom Fler, BSWCD; Bill Lillibridge, SWCC; Kaitlyn Parks, SWCC.

Via Zoom: Jim Stevens, BSWCD; Tom Daniels, IASCD.

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

A. Call to Order

1. **Action Item: September 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Rick, Seconded by: Chris
Motion carried.

2. **Action Item: August 2025 Financial Reports**

Motion to approve August 2025 Financial Reports: Rick, Seconded by: Chris
Motion carried. For the LGIP account, Sarah will move funds into it. We received Molly's funding in early September. Pack River funding - we have not received funds from all participants.

Action Item: IASCD Dues- Board members discuss the benefits (if any) of the dues. Bill for dues was sent out at the end of September (after the due date). Tom D. confirmed payments would not be considered late. Motion to approve paying IASCD dues for FY 26 by Rick, seconded by Christ. Motion carried.

B. Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

1. **IASCD Director - Tom Daniels:** This year for the annual conference the entry fee is dropped to \$150 and there is a BOGO (buy one get one) for supervisors/staff from the same District. The IASCD budget is still being worked on. There has to be a full group to approve dues, which they have to wait until the next time they meet. The status of Travis Jones' position is being worked on as it is two positions - lobbyist and Executive Director. The lobby position is of primary importance. Travis has applied for that position. IASCD has received feedback from 3-4 districts on the positions (resolutions sent to all districts except BSWCD).
2. **AIS Boat Stations - Tom Fler:** Winding down for the year. Inspecting approximately 10 boats/week, 24,600 total so far. No live mussels detected. 22 washed total for weeds from infested waters. We get a lot of boats from the Montana area. 5,674 stickers have been sold. For staffing - lost one person to Amazon (the new facility) due to higher pay. Last spring gave returning bonuses. Table any action on these until the next board meeting. Jim Stevens suggested that due to a really good season, to do a write up and send it to the Commissioners.
3. **GOSC - Sarah:** Bear Fair had a good turnout. May have the fair again in this area next year.
4. **Lakes Commission - Sarah:** October 30th is the next LC meeting. Will have economic study available. Agenda pending on Federal partners.
5. **NRCS - Cindy Lewis:** See attached Local Work Group notes. Sarah noted funding pools combined with the Idaho Local Work Group could extend down to Moscow due to changes in

funding cuts. NRCS is not sure what is coming due to many shifts in federal funding. Applications for the EQIP program closed on October 4th. Ranking occurs after application closes. Jim noted that it would occur in February or March timeframe.

6. **SWCC - Bill Lillibridge & Kaitlyn Parks:** Bill introduced Kaitlyn to the Board and she talked about her background. District match funding base and operating has been sent out. Not considered general funds. Could potentially get more hold back - 8%, then later get back 5% in January. Will possibly get approximately 92% total of funding. Merger - The Langdon group has sent the survey to districts. They will create a report and present it at the conference. Tom Daniels mentioned that there were five resolutions reviewed with two tabled. They will be at the Division meeting.

C. District Business

1. **Action Item:** IASCD Conference - Motion to approve three people to go by Rick, seconded by Christ. Motion carried.
2. **ISWCC/IDWR merger:** Sarah reported that the survey (a link) was sent to all the board members. Eric and Matt will be at the Division meeting to discuss. Travis Jones put in his resume for the Lobbying position. Tom D. noted they are putting together a list of interviewees.
3. **ICRMP** - To meet eligibility, reduce liability and lower annual premiums, the board and all staff (including boat inspectors) must attend an annual Respectful Workplace Training. Needs to be completed by December 15th. Will schedule during the November meeting when all board members are present.

D. District Update

1. **BSWCD Report** – Sarah Garcia

The Board was presented with current Pack River photos via a slide deck with discussion regarding its status. She noted that she just received notice from DEQ to get funding. She had to submit reports on the PR through different systems due to federal programs closed due to closure of the government. Sarah then presented the financials for the 319 grant. She noted county rates were considered on FEMA costs. She said she would have the final financial report by this Friday completed.

AIS stations: Sarah met with inspectors at all three stations. Inspectors and supervisors discussed their continued interest in raises. Lobbying at state level for our stations.

Economic Summit - Sarah attended. Board members noted they were not aware of the event and would like to have known. The event discussion was on findings of the county demographics and housing/costs. Sandpoint is #3 for high costs.

Food Summit - November 7th and 8th at Ag Center. BSWCD is part of the planning committee. Hosting Ignite session. KSSWCD hosting No-Till Drill and rental program. Austin will be there giving review of his program. POSFI will be there. Julie will be there for the tree program.

SEEP - Sarah will be presenting at this meeting with Molly about the PR project.

County - There is a transition with county commissioners as Asia is no longer the Chair. Jeff will

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reach out to her to ask if a meeting would be appropriate for moving the District into the County building. Sarah will submit invoice around Dec. 1st for \$25K and the form.

Motion to adjourn at 2:40 pm by Chris, seconded by Rick.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

Dave Van Horn
District Supervisor Signature

11/4/25
Date