

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: September 5, 2012
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD
Vern Hollett, BSWCD
Alice Wallace, BSWCD
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD
Harry Menser, Associate

Greg Becker, NRCS
Molly McCahon, LAS
Erin Mader, POBC
Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Guest: Rene' Riddle, Boundary SCD
Guest: Delwyne Trefz, SWC

Absent: Fairy Delay, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:30. Herman welcomed Delwyne Trefz from the Soil & Water Conservation Commission, who was seeking input from the district on the TAWG (Technical Assistance Work Group) Recommendations. Delwyne said the committee put a lot more time in on this than they had originally anticipated, but also that it was not any one person's perfect answer to the task presented to them. The Commission will not address this report again until their October meeting, and in the meantime would welcome input from districts.

Herman: Small districts would not have time to develop the paperwork required by these recommendations. Also, could it be used on a trial basis for a year to see if it would work.

Cassie: Why did you start doing it? What was the reason to even begin to develop these recommendations?

Rene': Her board is not in support of the recommendations, and they feel the larger districts have enough people they could probably handle the paperwork fine, but the smaller districts don't have the personnel to begin to do it.

Delwyne: He felt the ranking process did take into consideration how much help a district had already received by the Commission and would rank higher a district that hadn't utilized their help recently. Regarding the reason the Commission began this process – in the annual survey conducted by the SWC to determine if they are giving the districts the help they need, enough districts said they were not receiving the technical assistance they needed to prompt the TAWG process. The SWC has 9 field staff and 2 engineers to serve 50 districts. The SWC is trying to apply a business model to remedy the service provided.

BSWCD Consensus: Mark Hogen has been coming to our meetings and is more familiar now with our projects. We feel if we need Mark's help we can call him or Bill Lillibridge, get their help and be done. We do not want to go through the recommended process presented by the TAWG.

Herman asked Delwyne to clarify the new position requested in the proposed FY2014 SWC budget. Delwyne said that position would help with TMDL work required by EPA, but also would help with technical assistance for districts.

Approval of Minutes:

Vern moved to approve the August 10, 2012, minutes, and Dale seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

Financial Report:

- Vern reviewed the August financial report and moved it be approved. Alice seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*
- Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to donate \$50 to the Soil Evaluation Event, and to transfer the following funds from PSB to LGIP: \$30,000 Avista Grouse Creek; \$37,500 POBC; and \$2,730 SWC Capacity Building funds, *the motion carried.*

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker:

- Greg reviewed the field office possibilities sent to NRCS and IASCD last month. When there was not a quorum at the August 7th board meeting, the people present discussed different options and came up with the suggestions presented. Copies were given to the board.
- **Grouse Creek Update:** The permitted stream work was completed as required by the end of August. The remainder of the straw waddle work, willow planting, and fill-to-grade work will be done in October.

L*A*S by Molly McCahon:

- Molly met with both Dover and Leclde personnel involved in the Source Water grant and they all agreed to the match required of them. Molly will present a Memorandum of Understanding between the district and each community regarding their match at the next board meeting.
- Molly reviewed a potential EPA grant regarding water quality outreach and education with the Nearshore Committee and got a positive response from its members. It is a regional grant, and through Lake*A*Syst could incorporate the UI Water Center, Water Festival, the Waterlife Discovery Center for outreach and education. She and Linda will present more information at the next meeting.

POBC by Erin Mader:

- Lake level management was discussed at the Fishery Task Force meeting Erin attended. It was reported that higher pool level is not benefitting Kokanee spawning, so in two years they may always go to the lowest level, which would allow them to fluctuate 5 feet every year for power generation. Next year it is already planned to have the lake at the high level for winter pool, and the next year at the low level. After that they may keep it low.
- The mysis shrimp are at the lowest numbers they have ever been across the whole northwest region, and the fisheries people do not know why.

BSWCD: Linda O'Hare reviewed her written report which included the following:

- AIS Stickers: Season sales through the middle of last week were \$4000 more than the total sales last season.
- Boat Inspection Stations: This season has required more time on schedules and personnel issues, but has been very successful, and no mussels have been found. The last full day is September 10th, and the stations will be taken down on Tuesday, September 11th. There was a discussion on the cost of renting the electronic road signs. Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to have Linda look into the cost of buying our own signs. *The motion carried.* We also had one attendant roll their ankle at a station, and a workman's compensation report was filed.
- Our tree seeding sale has gone well so far -- 19,165 seedlings have been sold.

OLD BUSINESS

Division I WQPA: Final coordination of Division I WQPA reporting with the Soil Conservation Commission was completed last week.

Memorial Boat Launch Update: The City has been raking out the milfoil that has blown in the Memorial Boat Launch area. Molly is helping with painting large signage on the ramp to remind boaters to Clean, Drain, Dry their boats. The boat inspection stations have not seen the quantity of milfoil this year that they did last year from Memorial.

SWC Financial & Match Report: A copy of the final District Funding Summary was given to the board. The return on investment for local funds is 61%, and the return on investment for state funds is 22%.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Festival: Tri-State Water Quality Council is not operating this coming year, and has asked the district if they would coordinate the Pend Oreille Water Festival. The timing does not work well for the district employee as the Forestry Contest is always the week before the Water Festival and the boat inspection stations open the next week. After discussion, Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve of the district housing the Water Festival if

a coordinator can be hired and if we receive enough funding. *The motion carried.* Also, the district's \$500 normal donation to the Water Festival could be used to cover the initial hours by the Coordinator.

Division I Meeting: The Division I meeting will be hosted by Kootenai-Shoshone on October 26th.

IASCD State Conference: Idaho Falls is hosting state conference November 14-17th. It would cost around \$1000 per person for someone from our district to attend.

ICRMP Renewal: Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to not accept the additional terrorism coverage, *the motion carried.* Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to accept the new ICRMP policy, *the motion carried.* The next ICRMP training will be October 16th in Moscow. Alice moved and Vern seconded the motion to pay for Herman and Linda to attend, *the motion carried.*

Correspondence: The letter IASCD sent Senator Crapo and Congressman Labrador regarding passing the Farm Bill in September was reviewed.

Vern reported there has been an eight inch drop in the water level in the Hoodoo after it was cleaned out.

Vern moved and Dale seconded the motion to go into Executive Session, and requested Linda to remain in the meeting. *The motion carried.*

Vern moved and Dale seconded the motion to go out of Executive Session into the regular meeting, *the motion carried.*

For the next board meeting, Herman requested Linda to check into a better insurance coverage in lieu of a raise.

Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of August 2012 minutes

Approval of August 2012 financial report

Approval of paying \$50 for soil evaluation event, and 3 transfers to LGIP.

Approval of investigating cost of purchasing LED road signs

Approval of sponsoring Water Festival if funding and a coordinator can be found

Approval of no additional terrorism insurance coverage with ICRMP, approval of new ICRMP policy, and approval of Herman and Linda attending October 16th training in Moscow.

Approval of going into executive session

Approval of going out of executive session