

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting



**Date:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm Meeting  
**Place:** CREC Conference Room, 130 McGhee Rd., Suite 220, Sandpoint ID 83864  
\* Zoom info at bottom of agenda

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### Attendance

**Board members:** Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD.

**Others:** Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD.

**Via Zoom:** Kaitlyn Parks, ISWCC; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

### A) Call to Order

1. **Action Item:** November 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve November 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Jeff, Seconded by: Rick  
Motion carried.
2. **Action Item:** October 2025 Financial Report  
Motion to approve September 2025 Financial Reports: Rick, Seconded by: Harry  
Motion carried. DEQ payment for Pack River project not received yet. DEQ financial dept is still working on it, had our info for 2-3 weeks, just delayed. Bonner County funds have not yet been received for the fiscal year. (Board reviews financial reports.) The audit is in progress. The CDABooks accountant handling it is new to our account. It is due 6/30.

### B) Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

1. **NRCS - Cindy Lewis:** See attached notes from Cindy.
2. **SWCC – Kaitlyn Parks:** Langdon Group findings are completed between IDWR and ISWCC. Needs legislature approval next. Bill notes that the Performance Report is due Dec. 20th. The Commission does not meet in December but will in January. Legislative Social in Boise is Jan. 15th. Idaho DOGE is coming up with a lot of suggestions for ISWCC and other organizations, but we will see what happens.

### C) District Business

1. **IASCD Conference:** Jeff discussed his attendance at the IASCD Director's meeting. There was some derailment of processes with breaks not being taken but got smoothed over by the end. Some negativity by Becker and others. Zoom calls to move forward with the Lobbyist position, hiring Patxi for a 6-month contract at \$12K, which he agreed to. Travis was interviewed and did well bringing forward Ag concerns. The IASCD board is still working on the Executive Director role, with it possibly completed in the next 2 weeks to a month. Sarah noted Patxi has a background in leadership agriculture. Will know more in the future what the legislation is like to continue with his position. The BSWCD Board then discussed the three resolutions that were before the lobbyist position.  
Sarah noted that the IDEA president was not in attendance at the conference and was absent from email 6 weeks before the conference. She then, as Vice President, became responsible for the IDEA Business Meeting and workshop. There has been a change in the IDEA Board,

the one impacting our District is that Sarah was elected as the IDEA president during a special election. There is a push from southern Idaho for IDEA to have a seat at IASCD Board meeting and this was also reiterated at the IDEA membership meeting. Going forward, Sarah will do training quarterly for IDEA. Other duties include initiating a Google drive for storage and sharing of work rather than emails. She arranged for the IDEA conference workshop to feature the LGIP investment manager as 1/3 of districts have not heard about them and the benefits. IDEA Business Meeting will be held on 21st via Zoom. This meeting will go over the election process. Other districts have enrolled in PERSI due to BSWCD's past work. Jeff will help to improve IASCD's transparency of financials and position for all the districts. Jeff noted Tori, President of IASCD, is doing a great job with new ideas and processes such as putting things online, not paper copies. Next year's conference will be in Moscow or Lewiston. Jeff noted that many at the conference touted the Forestry Contest as well received and that many in the south wanted to come up to the event the next year. Ada district put together a comprehensive performance report which compiled all the district's information.

2. **Action Item:** Performance Report 2025. Motion to approve BSWCD Performance Report as presented (paper copy viewed by Board) by Rick, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried. Dale to sign certification for ISWCC.
3. **Action Item:** Employee Appreciation - Motion to approve bonus for Sarah, Julie, Molly, Jessica, and Gail of \$200 by Harry, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

#### D) District Update

1. **BSWCD Report – Sarah Garcia:** Co-op featured article of Pack River project.

Health insurance - For Sarah and Molly, group coverage would be \$760/month vs. going into the marketplace at \$550/month for the upcoming year. The Lakes Commission will cover the cost for Molly while the District will cover Sarah. Motion to pay for Molly and Sarah at up to the current rate being paid in 2025 for marketplace or group health coverage by Jeff, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.

Co-op articles also included a tree seedling ad, which has brought in many orders. Future articles would be about boat stations, and March's printing will highlight Water Festival, lake information - ISDA plant dept, Spring events, etc.

Food Summit meeting wrap-up: It was not well attended due to road closure. Kootenai's No-Till Drill got a lot of engagement as well as POSFI during their Ignite session, and they were very complimentary to the Board for all the support and are seeing new members utilizing the kitchen.

Umbrella grant - will be closing it out for this year (it is a five-year grant).

Forestry Contest meetings will start next month.

There has been an increase of interest in streambank restoration work on the Pack River due to our recent project. May be putting in grants for these.

Office space at the County - there has been no acknowledgement of emails sent to county

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officials. Sarah to continue conversations with Commissioners.

ISDA is interested in having our Albeni Falls station operate both ways. This will increase boat inspections and number of boat inspectors and times they operate. Clark Fork currently does it both ways.

Motion to provide December 26th, 2025, off for BSWCD staff by Jeff, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 2:10 pm by Chris, seconded by Harry.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

*Nate VanHorn*  
District Supervisor Signature

01/06/26  
Date