

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting
Place: 4205 N Boyer Ave, Sandpoint, ID * Zoom Teleconference

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Jim Stevens, BSWCD	Katie Yoder, ISWCC
Brad Bluemer, BSWCD	Rick Watt, BSWCD	Sarah Garcia, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Jerry Dalebout, BSWCD	
John Gaddess, BSWCD	Cindy Vaughan, NRCS	

The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes: Brad moved, seconded by Harry, to approve the December 2021 minutes, *the motion carried.*

Financial Reports: Brad moved, seconded by Harry to approve the November 2021 financials *the motion carried.*

AGENCY REPORTS

Katie Yoder – ISWCC: Katie did not have anything to report but wanted to check in with the Board.

NRCS – Cindy Vaughan: Cindy made the board aware of a new Urban Ag: small acreage initiative. The detail position for team lead closes Jan. 4th. The position will be filled for 120 days. The full-time position is expected to be flown again very soon. The team is very happy with the new hire Nic Boring who the board meet previously.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

PSP Update: All 2022 seedlings were grown with Gabe French of Idaho Evergreen. There were serious shortfalls in certain species partly due to heat stress. There are concerns about the reasons for the shortfalls and the PSP team are keeping close tabs. The goal is to be able to make up some of the Western Larch shortfalls. The PSP Board determined the moving our seedbank to Silvaseed in Roy, Wa. This move was made as they are more customer focused geared toward our needs. Currently have 3-12/yr supply species dependent. There is a need to secure additional Western Larch seed. In 2023 there will be more specialized Doug Fir seed with lots specific for Bonner/Boundary and Kootenai/Benewah. Sales are well ahead of typical sales figures with 90% of the Districts balance sold as well as approximately 87% of program total sold.

Boat Stations: The board discussed in detail with Glenn Kibbey and Sarah the challenges of each AIS station hiring. Glenn indicated that he supported the initial \$3/hr. increase that Sarah had previously discussed with Nic Zurfluh. The specific improvements needed at each site were discussed. Dale expressed that he felt strongly that the rates needed to be more aggressively increased to – Program Manager: \$25/hr.; Returning Inspectors \$20/hr; New Inspectors \$18/hr. Brad moved, seconded by Rick, to request wage increases as outlined above be submitted to ISDA prior to moving forward to administering the AIS program in 2022. *the motion carried.* Additional conversation was had as to whether it would be beneficial to send Glenn to Boise to speak before JFAC on the importance of funding this program appropriately. Harry moved, seconded by Rick to fund the travel and per diem for Glenn to travel to Boise on the Districts behalf if the district is able to receive approval for him to speak to legislators. *the motion carried.*

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Legislative Days: Sarah reminded the Board of the upcoming legislative Display and social. Brad & Rick were provided with guidance on what to expect at both events. Sarah also provided a brief overview to the attendees of what the display would be focused on.

IASCED Business Meeting: Sarah provided the Board with documents she received the morning of the board meeting which was the first notice/documentation that our District had received notifying us of the Business meeting. Sarah also provided the board with the email she exchanged with Benjamin regarding the lack of communication and an overview of the call she received from Benjamin after responding & cc'ing the board. Benjamin was unable to explain the technical glitch that would allow Sarah to receive all of his other emails, but not critical emails related to business meeting. When the blame was placed on Federal email restrictions, Sarah again asked for an explanation as to why the Districts Gmail email was not included in the email list as previously addressed with Benjamin. An answer was not provided but Benjamin committed to adding the Districts Gmail account to his bulk email list. When questioned why the Boards email sent in December was not acknowledged although discussed at the Directors meeting again no clear response was given. The Board expressed their frustrations with the poor communication and lack of accountability by IASCED & Executive Director Kelly. The Board questioned what value we get out of our dues and whether it is beyond time to have a change both in leadership of IASCED as well as looking at replacing the executive director.

Bonner SWCD by Sarah Garcia: Much of Sarah's work over the last month has already been covered through the course of the meetings topics.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10p.

 1/1/22

District Supervisor Signature Date

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