

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm Meeting  
**Place:** UI Extension  
(4205 N. Boyer Ave., 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; Chris Elliot, BSWCD; Jim Stevens, BSWCD.  
*Others:* Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD; Cindy Lewis, NRCS; Jenna Ditzel, SWCC; Megan Parnell, Farm Bureau.  
*via Zoom:* Jessica Erickson; BSWCD.

A quorum is present.

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

## 1. Call to Order - 1:05 pm

- a. **Action Item: January 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**  
Motion to approve January 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Jeff Second: Rick  
Motion carried
- b. **Action Item: December 2024 Financial Reports**  
Motion to approve December 2024 Financial Reports: Rick Second: Jeff  
Motion carried
- c. **Action Item: 2025 Mileage Rate (.70)**  
Motion to approve: Harry Second: Chris Motion carried
- d. State Insurance Fund/Idaho Workers' Compensation - Annual premium; rates decreased, rate based on last year's audit (employee hours).

## 2. Agency/Grant & Guest Reports

- a. **Farm Bureau** - scholarship for high school students is due March 3rd. Age range is 17-22yrs. Ag & non-ag scholarships available.
- b. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report – Cindy Lewis:**  
hiring freeze across all federal government; deferred resignation offered to employees by Feb. 6th pay until Sept.; a lot of unknowns right now. Grants are on pause for obligated contracts related to Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Changing performance standards to 5-tier rating. Required to work in the office. Not guaranteeing any position is safe.
- c. **Pack River Watershed Council - Jessica Erickson:** Grouse Creek Rd. project - goal is to increase habitat to reduce sediment delivery; Forest Service re-routed 2 miles out of flood plain; maintained access. Volunteers to do work. PR project completed in 6/2024 - mitigate wildlife habitat, created 8 new islands, created

new access site. 2023- Fish & Game installed detection for fish. TAP gives data for future restoration effort. Newsletter sent out to 280 landowners and posted on website.



- d. **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) – Jenna Ditzel:** Delwyn retiring - last day May 16th. New Resource Conservationists in Soda Springs and another open position. WQPA funding needed, per IASCD. Need for milkweed. 319 permits are done; not much needed to do until receive funding.
- e. **UI Extension - Jen Jensen (via Christine Elliott):** Farm Tour next Tuesday at 1:30pm at UI Extension. 2 sites confirmed
- f. **Water Festival - Gail (vis Julie Lakatos):** Meeting was held last week - had two interns already to assist. Schedule and planning are continuing. Idaho State Education Superintendent will be attending Thursday, May 15th of the Water Festival.

### 3. District Business

- a. **Legislative Social & Display report:** more districts participated this year; BSWCD used digital displays; had good interactions with representatives and congressional staff.
- b. **ISDA meeting report:** information on numbers of mussels detected are low; permanent structures slated to be built at some inspection locations with Clark Fork being possible in future iterations of the plans. Pay increase - probably not going to see \$2 increase, if any increase at all. Next month will have an agreement with ISDA to review for the year.
- c. **PSP meeting:** discussion regarding districts owing Bonner SWCD for current and past tree orders. 10% admin fee is split 4 ways (each district).  
*Motion:* All members of PSP are responsible for paying their portion of growers' contracted sow cost at the time of order - Rick Second: Jeff Motion carried.
- d. **Forest Contest:** Discussion regarding Ken Homik's behavior toward BSWCD staff. Jeff would like support from board when representing the board at meetings.
- e. **Annual Plan of Work/5-Year Plan:** Update to plans will occur in future meetings - March board meeting to plan meeting.

### 4. District Update

- a. BSWCD Report: Sarah Garcia
  - i. Grant updates:
    - 1. **Kitchen grant (RBDG) - POSFI Open House** - Thank you to all board members that attended. New grant possible for freeze dryer.
    - 2. **IDEA** - Sarah hosted workshop to participants on Open Meeting Laws and Election Documents. Districts want more training. Staff to get notary certification.



**5. Executive Session**

Jeff moved into Executive Session per Idaho Code #74-206(b) at 3:32pm,  
Seconded by: Rick. Roll call vote: Dale Van Stone (Y), Jeff Connolly (Y),  
Harry Menser (Y), Rick Watt (Y), Chris Elliott (Y).

Jeff moved to exit the Executive Session and approve what was discussed  
in the Executive Session, seconded by Harry.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm by Rick, seconded by Jeff.

Minutes submitted by Julie Lakatos, District Administrator.

Dale Van Stone 3/4/25  
District Supervisor Signature Date

To join the meeting through your computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/2327856631>

Meeting ID: 232 785 6631

PW: 2635310

This option will allow you to join by computer audio as well as video if your computer is equipped.

To join the meeting via your phone:

Dial: 1-253- 215- 8782 Meeting ID: 232 785 6631 PW: 2635310

