Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

# Date: Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019

# Time: 1:00 pm Meeting

Place: 1224 Washington Ave. Suite 101, Sandpoint, ID

Attendance:

Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS

Terry McGuirk, BSWCD Molly McCahon, POBC

Alice Wallace, BSWCD Brad Shelton, SWCC

Jim Stevens, BSWCD Gail Bolin, Earthwise

Sarah Garcia, BSWCD

Absent:; Jessica Erikson, PRWC; Chase Youngdahl, John Gaddess, Jennifer Jensen

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Alice moved, seconded by Terry, to approve the June 2019 minutes, *the motion carried.*

**Financial Report:** Alice moved, and Terry seconded, the motion to delay the review of June financials until the next board meeting, *the motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Farm Tour:** Sarah presented the board with a written overview of the annual farm tour including photos of many of the tour stops. *Attached.*

**Boat Station Report:**  Glenn was unable to attend the Board meeting but provided a written boat station update. *Attached.* The Board discussed an incident with our ISDA local rep. wherein she intended to ask our station inspectors to rate one another’s work performance. The situation was resolved when Sarah called to clarify the reasoning for this with ISDA’s state contact, Nic expressing our concern for the damage this would create with our employee’s morale. The exercise did not take place with our inspectors. The board members who attended the recent Lakes Commission Meeting were very complimentary of Glenns presentation and asked that their kudos be shared with him.

**Water Festival:** Gail provided the board with an follow up report of the Water Festival. The financial numbers from the Spring Fly Fishing Festival have not yet been received from Reg, Trout Unlimited. She was unsure when she would have that information as attempts to reach her have been unsuccessful likely due to medical situation in her family. The Water Festival Thank you Ad was published in the Sunday Daily Bee. This years post tests saw the biggest increase to date with 82% of students scoring 80% or better compared to just 25% in the pretest. Dale and the rest of the Board complimented Gail on her hard work as well as ongoing success with the program. 2020 will be the Water Festivals 25th anniversary and Gail would like to create some type of branded gift to celebrate with our volunteers and she is leaning towards embroidered hats.

**Community Partnerships/Donors:** The board discussed potential partners to reach out to secure additional community support which will allow us to receive additional state dollars and will allow us to eventually hire additional staff to help expand our community programs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lakes Commission:** As discussed in the June meeting the Board reviewed the subsequent Letter of agreement with The Lakes Commission for administration of their funds and a professional service agreement with Norm Semanko, legal counsel for Lakes Commission regarding the Columbia River treaty that were approved at The Lakes Commission late June meeting. Alice moved, and Jim seconded the motion to sign both the LOA and professional services agreement related to The Lakes Commission funding for FY2020. *the motion carried.*

**Credit Card:** Sarah presented the board with her findings on the different options for accepting credit cards. Based on the transaction costs and ease of use Sarah recommended moving forward with merchant one credit processing for accepting credit card payments for trees and AIS Stickers. Terry moved, and Jim seconded the motion to accept credit cards. *the motion carried.*

**AIS Training:** Sarah and Molly updated the Board on the recent AIS training they attended in late June in Montana. The training was a full day hands on training called “train the trainer”. The training provided tools to be able to engage the public in the discussion about AIS prevention. Both agreed the training was well worth their time both for the information learned, the teaching toolbox that was provided to each attendee, and the connections made.

**BSWCD Logo:** The board was presented with several logo styled letter head and asked to provide their feedback. Sarah expressed the need to be a recognizable “brand” in order to increase public knowledge of the District and how we can assist small landowners. A style was narrowed down and Sarah will move forward with procuring a professional logo along the same lines that will be personalized to our area to include mountain, trees, and water.

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

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Greg Becker:** Greg informed the board about increased interest and work on Ag land easements- these conservation easements are on traditional ag lands in high priority areas. Working with Kaniksu Land trust (or any other conservation entity) the development rights of these lands are purchased while the landowner retains land ownership. Conservation entity must provide 20% of the easement funding. There is a 2020 app in the Selle Valley area and growing interest including grouse creek area. Greg also indicated the East Spring Creek 319 project is on target and that the county is completing the prep work for paving. The Board was notified that we unfortunately did not receive the NACD Grant for additional staff in our office. There is an option specific to our state that may be an option to add additional staff with financial support from the district. There were over 100 eqip applications in 2019 between Bonner & Boundary Counties with 50 that moved forward to the contract stage.

**Lakes Commission Molly McCahon:** Molly updated the board on the recent Lakes Commission meeting in Priest River that had over 80 people in attendance. The main focus was on the coldwater bypass and the outlet dam thoroughfare project slated to take place in late 2021. Molly gave an overview of her meetings presenters including Kate Wilson of Montana’s AIS program, Erin Mader of IFG on transforming the health of Idaho’s forest, as well as Glenn Kibbey of BSWCD.

**SWC Brad Shelton:** Brad informed the board of several meetings that have been taking place in Boise regarding getting more assistance into NRCS field offices this would require a financial commitment of 25% from district. SWC/IASCD have met with Governors staff to start the conversation regarding the districts receiving a set funding of $50,000 vs. the current 2 to 1 match that is not being fully honored.

**Bonner SWCD by Sarah Garcia:** Sarah provided the board with a written overview of the Districts June activities. In addition the board and Sarah discussed the previously approved laptop purchase and what specifications price the board would find acceptable. Jim moved, and Terry seconded a motion to purchase the highest quality computer to fit the districts needs and improve efficiency of district processes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10p.

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District Supervisor Signature Date

*All services of the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to national origin, race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. Auxiliary aides or services for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please call 263-5310 five (5) days prior to the meeting so that suitable arrangements can be made.*