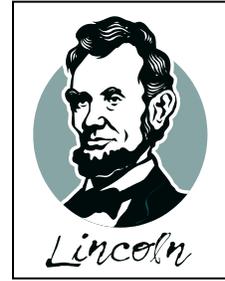


Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2006
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Federal Building, Room 306

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD
Vern Hollett, BSWCD
Jeff Stewart, NRCS
Mark Addy, NRCS CdA
Jeff Knetter, Idaho F&G
Jamie Davis, IASCD
Gary Parker, IASCD
Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Dick Kramer, FS (4-4:20)

Absent: Ray Delay, Supervisor; Alice Wallace, Supervisor, Fairy Delay, Associate; Ed Nurmi, Associate; Lang Baker, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Herman Collins, Chairman. Guests were introduced.

Approval of Minutes:

Dale moved to approve the January 2006 minutes as presented. Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

Financial Report:

Herman reviewed the financial records for January 2006 prior to the meeting. Vern moved they be approved, Dale seconded the motion. *The motion carried.* Dale moved to approve the transfer of \$5000 to the LGIP, and to approve payments of \$9562 to Avista for Granite Creek, \$500 Donation to Water Festival, and \$50 Donation to Envirothon. Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS: Jeff Stewart reviewed his written report:

- We have 16 new FY2006 EQIP applications, 2 new CCRP applications, and 1 WRP – planning has started on several of these. Blasko's EPA funded streambank protection practice was cancelled due to inability to secure a contractor and problems with USFWS concurrence letter, but Diane Williams with Tri-State is helping us pursue Avista funds to complete this project.
- Worked with Jack Filopowski on EQIP ag waste project, Dallas Crandal on Hoodoo Creek wetland and conservation planning questions, Sharon Tibbetts and Larry Larson on engineering surveys. Also worked on Hellroaring Creek – met with County Road supervisor and engineer on road-creek crossing. Provided informational assistance to Kemps dairy on EQIP contract cancellation.
- Attended DEQ/SCC/NRCS coordination meeting in CdA, did snow survey on Schweitzer, reviewed Lake*A*Syst materials, reviewed district's 5-year-plan, reviewed LPO Watershed Rapid Assessment, helped with Ag/Forestry Winter Carnival.

NRCS: Mark Addy, the District Conservationist from Coeur d'Alene, spoke to the district about the efforts to utilize all or most of the \$900,000 allotted to Division I by EQIP funding.

- In the past, one-half to one-third of this money is returned to the state for use in other counties. Mark feels the main reason for this is the low EQIP cost-share percentage of 50%. On many practices the landowners cannot afford to do a practice without more cost-share.
- The ISCC had some extra dollars this year, and Biff Burleigh, Mark Hogan, and Mark Addy are working on a proposal to tie Division I together into one large WQPA contract with the state and are requesting \$480,000 in funding over the next 3 years for projects on 303d listed streams. With the 50% cost-share from EQIP and adding on 25-40% cost-share through WQPA, landowners could be reimbursed up to 90% on some practices that do not have an economic return on their investment. The landowner would have 2 contracts, one with NRCS for EQIP, and one WQPA, which is through the SCC and is administered by the district - two contracts on a single conservation plan. The bills would be paid on the percentages allowed from the two separate funds.
- Mark requested the district sign the contract approving of this merger, and also send a letter of support to Biff Burleigh regarding the two programs supporting one conservation plan.
- Jeff asked the board to consider encouraging forestry practices be included in the WQPA cost-share. Right now they are not considered ag practices by ISCC. IDL is the designated management agency for forestry practices, and the ISCC does not want to interfere.

Dale moved to have the district support the contract utilizing WQPA funding to combine with EQIP funding on one conservation plan according to the practices listed. Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

Dale moved to write a letter to Biff that supports this proposal. Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

IASCD: Jamie Davis reported as follows:

- She attended the DEQ Coordination Meeting
- Lake Pend Oreille: Attended the Nearshore meeting, labeled the shoreline pictures, reviewed the Lake*A*Syst fact sheets
- Pack River: She and Jeff revised and updated the Pack 319 Work Plan and Timeline (this is the last year for this project to be funded), along with Durham visited Kuhl's on streambank stabilization, began coordinating summer SVAP of tributaries on Pack River for Implementation Plan, attended Clark Fork WAG – Tri-State getting base-line data for this.
- Priest River: Met with Tony Bennett and Mark Hogan on the proposal to use the NRCS Watershed Rapid Assessment in 5 TMDL areas, one of which is the Priest; visited Tibbetts with Mike Durham (NRCS engineer) to inspect well and begin preliminary feedlot design; accompanied Ken Clark (IASC) on field visit for monitoring on Lower West Branch WQPA.
- Attended Lakes Commission meeting on January 25th – good PR for Lake*A*Syst.
- Attended CPR, helped with Winter Carnival, completed 2006 Work Plan with Mark Hogan
- Will attend Leadership Idaho Ag February 13-17 for the fourth and last week, and will graduate the 17th. Jamie extended an invitation to all if they would like to attend in Boise.

Idaho Fish & Game: Jeff Knetter reported on Idaho Fish & Game's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) for waterfowl and upland game. This is a cost-share reimbursement program that melds well with NRCS programs. 10-year agreements reimburse up to 75%, while 30-year agreements reimburse up to 100%. He is working with Mike Gondek in Boundary County on

food plots with a 2-acre maximum size, but flexibility for larger areas. Jeff would like us to keep the HIP program in mind for joint projects, and left detailed information on HIP for us.

Lake*A*Syst: Gary Parker reported as follows:

- At the January 13th Steering Committee meeting materials were distributed for review and also mailed to other technical experts. Gary has revisions completed for 9 of the 13 sections, and they are ready for the final proofing. Our materials will be the guideline for the rest of the state.
- Kathy Robinson of Evergreen Realty has asked to distribute copies of Lake*A*Syst to lake property purchasers.
- Marianne Love has completed the introduction to the booklet.
- Attended the Nearshore meeting – they emphasized addressing milfoil the LAS materials. Gary is trying to locate a brochure on milfoil to include.

BSWCD: Linda O'Hare reviewed items on her written report that hadn't already been covered:

- Granite Creek: Received check from USFWS for \$10,062 which included \$500 administration fee.
- Pack TAC: Will meet this Friday to agree on final format for document.
- Tree Seedlings: Have sold 21,590 so far, with a profit of around \$2358.
- Forestry Contest is May 11th, received \$500 grant from Sandpoint Title to purchase clinometers. Water Festival is May 18-19. 40th Anniversary of Farm Tour in June.

Vern Follett asked about having the agenda include an A in front of action items and a D in front of discussion items. Linda will try that in the next agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Hellroaring Creek: Jeff and Linda updated the board. A letter was sent to Juliet regarding using a design by NRCS and the status of USFWS funding – Juliet's response was negative. Kyle Hawley encouraged the district to inform Jerry Nicolescu, ISCC, of the Sufism's lack of cooperation with standards and specs of NRCS, which Linda did with Herman's approval. Jerry recommended if we go with a USFWS design to keep all the funding in tact, to require a written disclaimer from USFWS to any liability resulting from the design. If the board pursues the project using an NRCS design, Jeff said there is a slight possibility of obtaining WHIP funding to help with the road/bridge situation due to the withdrawal of USFWS funding. Dale moved to have Jeff pursue the WHIP funding and an NRCS design. Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.* Linda will check with the funding partners on their status.

Pack River 319: Jamie and Jeff have revised the new Work Plan and Timeline and will submit them to DEQ. If approved, the dollars would have to be spent this year.

Lower West Branch of Priest River WOPA: Tibbetts have installed their well and submitted the bill for \$3,319. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the Tibbetts' payment. *The motion carried.*

NASE Insurance Premium Increase: Tabled until next meeting. Blue Shield agent has not contacted the office yet.

Dale Van Stone's Nomination for Idaho Soil Conservation Commission: The response letter from Governor Kempthorne was read.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Work Plan and Budget: Linda reviewed preliminary work on the Annual Work Plan and FY2008 Budget, along with the new format. The completed documents will be reviewed at the March 7th meeting. Linda will set a date to meet with the County Commissioners in April to review the Annual Work Plan and have them sign the Letter of Intent. Herman suggested we request \$12,000 from the County for operations next fiscal year.

Division I Meeting: The Division I Meeting will be Thursday, March 9th in Bonners Ferry at the Mirror Lake Golf Resort.

New Forest Service Building: Dick Kramer, Ranger with the Forest Service, shared the architect's plans they are reviewing for their new building, and requested an estimate of the square footage our office would need.

CORRESPONDENCE: Reviewed correspondence from Biff Burleigh, Spokane Community College re summer employment, Priest River Chamber questionnaire, and IASCD Legislative Liaison Proposal.

Our next meeting will be March 7th at 1:00 p.m.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

- Approval of January, 2006 Minutes
- Approval of January, 2006 Financial Report
- Approval of transferring \$5000 to LGIP, and paying \$9562 to Avista for Granite Creek, \$500 Donation to Water Festival, and \$50 Donation to Envirothon.
- Approval of contract combining WQPA funds with EQIP funds on one conservation plan
- Approval of writing a letter to Biff Burleigh, ISCC, supporting the WQPA/EQIP proposal
- Approval of pursuing WHIP funds for Hellroaring Creek along with NRCS design.
- Approval of WQPA payment to Tibbetts for \$3,319 for their well

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