

# Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



**Date:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024  
**Time:** 1:00 pm Meeting  
**Place:** 4205 N. Boyer Ave, Sandpoint, ID, 83864\* ZOOM INFO AT BOTTOM OF AGENDA

## Attendance

*Board members:* Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jeff Connolly, BSWCD; Harry Menser, BSWCD; Rick Watt, BSWCD; Chris Elliot, BSWCD

*Others:* Sarah Garcia, BSWCD; Julie Lakatos, BSWCD, Tom Flear, BSWCD; Jennifer Jensen, UI Extension

The meeting was called to order at 12:59pm by Chairman Dale Van Stone.

1. **Call to Order** - 12:59pm
2. **Action Item: August 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**  
Motion to approve: Jeff      Second: Chris      Motion carried
3. **Action Item: Financial Reports**  
Motion to approve: Rick      Second: Jeff      Motion carried
4. **Action Item: Authorized Representative on grant & financial systems**  
Harry moved seconded by Rick for District Admin Assistant Julie Lakatos to be an authorized representative for the districts bank accounts allowing her access to online banking & to non-signatory access of the accounts. Julie was also approved as an authorized representative on the districts behalf for grant writing, reporting, and invoicing systems. Motion carried
5. **Agency/Grant & Guest Reports**
  1. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report** – Cindy Lewis is still on detail, Jared Everson currently acting DC, but did fly a detail. NRCS boot camp taking place in September in Sandpoint.
  2. **UI Extension Report** – Jennifer Jensen: Western Association of County Extension Agents meeting here in Sandpoint, Sept. 23-25th at Ag Center. Ag center renovations completed this week. Jen provided an overview of the upcoming classes taking place in both Bonner & Boundary counties. Jen thanked the Board for the Extension gardens “One Garden” sign. Jen updated the Board on the Selkirk/Ponderay Food Summit a one-day event meant to capture what is happening in our foodshed. The event highlights the growers and value-added producers in the Bonner, Boundary and Montana area. Summit is on Friday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at Ag Center ~ 9-4pm. Next planning meeting is on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
  3. **Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)** – Jenna Ditzel-absent, but sent notes:
    - a. Steve Stuebner created a WQPA video for us that is posted to our website homepage, [www.swc.idaho.gov](http://www.swc.idaho.gov). YouTube: <https://youtu.be/tzddRbGKI48?si=aDHmj05W0H5aaEkb>

- b. We are so grateful for Governor Little and the state Legislature for providing the necessary funding, our commissioners for their willingness to rebuild the program after more than a decade of inactivity, to the Conservation Districts for identifying great conservation project proposals, and to our staff – both in Boise and out in the field!
  - c. George Hitz is the new Operations Manager/Deputy Administrator. Please forward all reporting and questions about District related tasks to George. [George.Hitz@swc.idaho.gov](mailto:George.Hitz@swc.idaho.gov)
  - d. Thanks for sending in your Financial & Match Reports!!
  - e. Upcoming Dates:
    - i. Division 1 meeting in Boundary 10/22
    - ii. IASCD Conference in Idaho Falls 11/12-11/14
4. **AIS/Boat Stations** – Tom Fleer: Albeni had 300 boats over the weekend, 50-70 boats/day. There may be a slowdown, but open until Halloween. Total boats inspected is 23,114 from all three stations and washed 19 boats – not necessarily compromised but from out of state, some are kayaks. Clark Fork got a new hot wash. Down on sticker sales. Hours will be shorter in coming months. Clark Fork may change hours/days, waiting for more information. I-90 in Kootenai will stay open later. All our findings have been dead. Testing going on in Idaho Falls, no mussels; starting EDNA, but could have false positives; nothing found yet. Staffing – everyone is good, when hours go down, possible people leaving.

## 6. District Business

1. Division 1 meeting –Thursday Oct. 22nd -Boundary waiting to receive agenda
2. Bonner County Fair Report- BSWCD booth received 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon. Level of traffic was low, recommended that future booths be outside. P Secured three school site visits from that fair attendance- pond restoration, homeschool academy, +1 more.
  - a. **Action item:** . Chris motioned to send a letter to Bonner County Fair Board and Fair Manager addressing concerns with poor communication prior to and during the event, serious errors in the printed fair book as well as the failure to judge exhibits according to the printed schedule. Draft to be reviewed by BSWCD Board. Second: Rick Motion carried
3. **Action Item:** Conference – Boise Nov. 12-15th in Idaho Falls.  
No agenda available yet, will email out when received. Chris and Jeff may attend. Rick motioned, seconded by Chris, for the District to cover all costs related to any board members and staff attending the conference. Motion carried
4. **Action Item:** ICRMP Premium Issue. Board discussed the initial premium increase received of 180% which would have made the annual premium almost \$9,000.00. Our rep was not responsive to multiple emails and phone calls. After multiple attempts to get resolution Sarah contacted the underwriter. After a request for a full account review it was determined there was an error by the actuary formula and the increase was an error that didn't raise any flags at ICRMP. After the review the Districts annual premium decreased approximately \$500.00 for a total cost \$2593.00. ICRMP provides liability insurance and Board member bonds, car insurance etc. Fees due Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion of looking at another company, possibly Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau policies are going up in two increments due to disasters. Past benefits of ICRMP were HR help on staff AIS issues, training videos to board protects us from

liabilities. Rick motioned to pay fee before Oct. 1st deadline. Second: Jeff  
Motion carried



5. Local Work Group - October 19th 10am-1pm at Community Hall. Chance for local landowners to discuss NRCS dollars for next fiscal year on how to spend it. Expanding who is invited to get more interest. Chris requested to have it presented to the Farm Bureau Board.

## 7. District Administrator Report

### Grant Info/Updates

**Action Item:** Urban Ag Grant

Two-part grant- planning grant and implementation grant. First part helps to get the second, but not guaranteed. We assess community garden sites such as 15 school gardens, public gardens, etc. Purpose is to identify how we connect people with the extra food resource. Gardens for Health Collaborative would be our partner as well as school administrators.

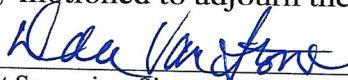
Harry motioned to move forward with grant. Second: Jeff Motion carried.

**Action Item:** BAG Meeting – Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm. BAG=Basin Area Group. Drone footage possible for Pack River 319 grant to better see how that scour is impeding. Anyone applying for 319 (Clean Water Act) has to present to BAG, then if selected go to Boise to rank against others. Will know in February if get grant. Asking for \$100,000, county agreed to pay \$15,000.

Food Summit - presentation about the District and possibly the kitchen grant (RBDG).

RBDG grant update: in process for ordering equipment. Potential we could rent equipment in 2nd grant (next year) for a fee.

Harry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jeff. Meeting adjourned at 2:22pm.

  
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