

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2017  
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID

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### Attendance:

Herman Collins, BSWCD	Brad Shelton, SWC
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Amanda Abajian, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Greg Becker, NRCS	Brad Bluemer, Associate
Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Jessica Erikson PRWC
Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC	

Absent: Cassie Tauber, BSWCD; Jennifer Jensen, UI

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace. Alice Wallace welcomed Don Drum from PERSI (Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho) who spoke regarding the process of becoming a PERSI employer. PERSI is considered to be one of the best pension programs in the U.S. and was established in 1965. They provide retirement, disability, survivor, and other benefits to more than 144,000 members across Idaho.

PERSI members participating in the base plan are subject to 60 months of service credit, after which the member becomes vested to receive a lifetime benefit at retirement. For FY2017 members in the general class are contributing 6.79% of each paycheck, while employers contribute a rate of 11.32%. Benefits received upon retirement are calculated by using 60% of your high 42-month earning period. General members are eligible to start collecting benefits when your age and years of service equals 90, known as the PERSI rule of 90. Currently PERSI is earning a 13% return rate on investments for FY2017.

To become a PERSI employer BSWCD must fill out an application to be reviewed by the PERSI board at their monthly meeting. The next PERSI board meeting will be held on the 18th of July. Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to approve BSWCD to apply to become a PERSI employer, the motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dale moved, seconded by Harry, to approve the May 2017 minutes, the motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Alice reviewed the May financials and recommended approval. Harry moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve the May financials, the motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Forestry Contest:** Amanda gave the final report on the forestry contest. This year we had over 400 students and over 200 volunteers, wow! The day was beautiful and the contest seemed to run smoothly for our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Steering committee wrap-up meeting was held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, and the idea to incorporate an Incident Action Plan was introduced to be used in future contests. Molly, Linda and Amanda met with Elana from Lonetree Creative to review option of online registration. Elana to send estimate proposal within the following weeks.

**Water Festival:** Amanda gave the final report for the 2017 Water Festival. This year there were 440 students between Thursday and Friday at the Riley Creek Campground. Linda offered the idea, and the board approved, presenting the Litehouse gift basket as a present to Gail Bolin for help as coordinator of the festival. Big thank you to NRCS office staff for helping with canopies this year!

**Boat Inspection 2017:** Linda reviewed the success of this year's boat inspection training with Nic Zurfluh. His southern Idaho perspective of the importance of boat inspection stations was very well received. Prior employee was forced to resign due to health concerns. Herman moved and Harry seconded to hire John Ennis as replacement

employee, *the motion carried*. Lloyd Knight visited the office on May 25<sup>th</sup> with supplies, Linda voiced her concerns regarding lack of electronic signs, and they were then approved late in the day to be rented through Arrow Construction. Signs were delivered to Clark Fork and Albeni on Friday of Memorial weekend, and to Samuels on the following Tuesday. Sticker sales for Memorial weekend were over \$5,000 between all three stations.

**319 Grant Possibilities:** Greg presented the idea of updating the application for the Spring Creek project as a 319 possibility. Avista is still undecided on what they would like to do with the land, but prior application to pave road adjacent to Spring Creek is still of interest for the county. Harry moved and Herman seconded updating the 319 application for Spring Creek project, *the motion carried*. Once application is complete the next step is to submit proposal to county commissioners and Road and Bridge. Application deadline is July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**District Credit Card:** Amanda presented that credit card application has been submitted to Columbia Bank and is still being processed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**IASCD Meeting June 9 & 10 in Kellogg:** Dale moved and Harry seconded paying for Amanda and Alice to attend the annual IASCD meeting in Kellogg June 9 & 10, *the motion carried*.

**Greg, Amanda & Brad – County Tour:** Greg reviewed the tour of Clark Fork and Selle Valley creeks visited by Amanda, Greg and Brad. Lightning Creek, Spring Creek, Trestle Creek, Grouse Creek and Schweitzer Creek were all included in the day trip. Amanda expressed to the board her enjoyment of seeing water bodies that could be potential future projects, and being able to compare with the successful project at Grouse Creek. Willow nursery in Ponderay was also visited.

**Civil Rights/EEO:** Linda presented to the board a newsletter received from NACD outlining President Trump's FY18 budget request, with a large cutback to the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program of \$91 million. Greg expressed that business will be conducted as usual in the Sandpoint office unless further mandates are created.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS by Greg Becker:** 1) Emergency Watershed Protection proposals, NRCS was able to determine one private landowner affected by mudslide to be eligible for EWP money. County is required to be a sponsor for EWP to go through. 2) Greg traveling to Bonners Ferry office two days a week to cover open DC position.

**POBC & LAS by Molly McCahon:** 1) Molly reported she will work with Tom Heron on revising FY2018 budget and will present to BSWCD board at the August meeting. Budget will need to be revised with addition of PERSI contribution costs. 2) Molly will be attending NW Area Committee Meeting on June 7, 2017 in CdA. 3) Molly has signed up for a booth at the wooden boat show for the Wake Campaign.

**Bonner SWCD by Linda O'Hare:** 1) Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. 2) Linda requested approval from the board to present Ray Delay with a gift card for allowing BSWCD to use Delay Farms as pickup area for the 2017 tree seedling sale. Herman moved and Harry seconded presenting Ray Delay with \$100.00 gift card, *the motion carried*. 3) Linda reviewed request from QAR to remove all district storage from computer room.

**Bonner SWCD by Amanda Abajian:** Amanda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. Amanda requested additional information from board members to update bank signature cards with Columbia Bank. Herman moved and Harry seconded to remove Vern Hollett and add Harry Menser as a signor on Columbia Bank accounts, *the motion carried*.

**Pack River Watershed Council:** Jessica Erikson reported: 1) Attended Near-Shore meeting where IDEQ presented data to propose delisting the following creeks; Caribou Creek, Grouse Creek, N. Fork of Grouse Creek, Hell Roaring Creek and Little Sandcreek. 2) Jessica presented summary of temperature data from the Pack River study. Only 3 streams met criteria for cold water aquatic life, no streams met temperature criteria for Bull Trout. 3) Jessica highlighted the TMDL for Boyer Slough reviewed at the Near Shore meeting.

**Brad Shelton**: Brad presented the implementation plan for the Priest River TMDL for river. Will be added to August agenda for board to review and approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

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District Supervisor Signature

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Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of May minutes

Approval of May financial reports

Approval of applying to become a PERSI employer

Approval of John Ennis as a boat inspector

Approval of applying for 319 grant for the Spring Creek project

Approval of Amanda and Alice to attend IASCD annual meeting in Kellogg, ID

Approval of the purchase of a \$100 gift card for Ray Delay for use of Delay Farms for 2017 tree sale

Approval removing Vern Hollett and adding Harry Menser as a signor on Columbia Bank accounts

*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.*