

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 7 2017  
Time: 1:00 pm Meeting  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID

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### Attendance:

Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Greg Becker, NRCS
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Amanda Abajian, BSWCD
Herman Collins, BSWCD	Brad Shelton, SWCC
Terry McGuirk, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, POBC

Absent: Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Jennifer Jensen, U of I; Jessica Erikson, PRWC

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cassie moved, seconded by Herman, to approve the October 2017 minutes, *the motion carried.*

**Financial Report:** Cassie moved, and Herman seconded, the motion to approve the September and October financials, *the motion carried.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**319 BAG Presentation:** Amanda and Greg advised the board that they attended the 319 BAG presentations on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Coeur D'Alene. Amanda and Greg presented their application for the East Spring Creek Road and Lightning Creek Breach project to the BAG committee as a team. Boundary SCD and Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD also presented applications to the BAG for 319 funding. Bonner SWCD was given a #1 ranking by the BAG committee and will be recommended for funding to the state.

**Local Work Group Meeting:** Greg presented that the local work group meeting was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> with a smaller turnout than in the past, but still a highly productive meeting. The meeting was held at the new Multi-Use Facility Building in Sagle which turned out to be a great meeting location.

**Division I Fall Meeting:** Alice reviewed the elections that took place at the Division I Fall meeting with Tom Daniel being voted in as the new Division I director and Cassie Tauber being voted in as alternate.

**State Conference:** Amanda presented to the board that Molly McCahon, Cassie Tauber and herself will be attending State Conference in Boise from November 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**SWCC Performance Report:** Amanda presented the updated 2017 Annual Performance Report to the board for approval before submitting to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The board provided positive feedback and advised it is ready to be submitted.

**Water Festival Contractor Agreement:** Amanda presented the updated Water Festival Coordinator agreement to the board for approval. Herman moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to approve the 2018 Water Festival Coordinator Agreement with Gail Bolin, *the motion carried.*

**Employee Health Insurance:** Molly presented to the board the option of switching to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for the district to save employees on taxes and income spikes with the current mode of an insurance

stipend. Amanda will look into the option of switching to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for the district if feasible. Amanda presented to the board that she has been enrolled in the most similar health plan to her current plan, the monthly premium with tax credit will be \$366.41. Molly is still deciding on a plan for 2018.

**New Associate:** Herman moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to vote Terry McGuirk in as an associate of the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District Board, *the motion carried.*

**Boat Station Supervisor:** Amanda presented to the board the prior advertisement that was placed for a boat station supervisor in 2010. The board reviewed and made minor updates to the Job Description. It was decided by the board that Bonner SWCD would start advertising for the position in early January. Supervisor salary was discussed and Cassie moved, and Harry seconded, the motion to offer \$17.00/hour + mileage to the new boat station supervisor upon hiring, *the motion carried.*

**Office Food Drive:** Amanda presented the idea of having an office food drive to the board. The board provided feedback and advised we collect donations at our Christmas party instead of buying gifts for each other. We will decide at the next board meeting if we will then donate the collection to the food bank or find a local family in need of support. Terry McGuirk offered to talk to staff at Farmin Stidwell to see what local needs are.

**Office Christmas Party:** Amanda presented to the board the different venue options for the Christmas party, including; Ivano's, The Elks Club, Beet and Basil and Connie's Café. After reviewing the venue options and pricing it was decided to have the Bonner SWCD Christmas party at Ivano's on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December at 5pm. Harry moved, and Herman seconded, the motion to cover the cost of the Christmas party for office staff, board members, associates and 1 guest, *the motion carried.*

**Civil Rights / EEO:** Greg advised that as the district conservationist his door is always open for comments and concerns.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Greg Becker:** Greg updated the board on the recent office QAR and advised that it went well, and only minor adjustments need to be made. Greg also advised he will be attending the upcoming State Conference in Boise.

**POBC & LAS Molly McCahon:** Molly updated the Board on the outcome of the Priest Lake Water Management Study paid for by IDWR in order to determine options for managing water in low water/drought years. The community favored raising the lake 3 "in low water years and supported dredging the Thorofare. The engineering firm Mott McDonald, who conducted the study, determined the cost to altering Outlet Dam to accommodate the 3" lake level increase would be approximately 2.5 million and the cost to dredge the Thorofare and repair the old breakwater would also be 2.5 million. The Lakes Commission voted unanimously to support the request to the state for funding this projects.

Molly talked about the Columbia River Treaty and how the US is working towards negotiations with Canada, as the Treaty will expire in 2024 and a 10-year notice is required for any changes to the current agreement. A discussion took place on the Treaty.

Molly let the board know that she would be listening in on the Idaho Invasive Species Council meeting and will be sending a letter to the Council with recommendations regarding management in the Pend Oreille Basin.

**SWCC Brad Shelton:** Brad advised he has been working on the resource inventory for Bonner County. Brad updated the group on a potential streambank restoration project on the Priest River, and the possibility of applying for the 319 Agriculture grant this upcoming spring for the project.

**Bonner SWCD by Amanda Abajian:** Amanda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

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District Supervisor Signature

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Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of October minutes

Approval of September and October financials

Approval of the 2018 Water Festival Coordinator Contract

Approval of Terry McGuirk as new associate to the Bonner SWCD board

Approval of offering \$17.00/hr + mileage to new boat station supervisor upon hiring

Approval of the district covering costs of the Christmas party for office staff, board members, associates and 1 guest