

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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

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### Attendance:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cassie Tauber, BSWCD  | Brad Shelton, SWC     |
| Dale Van Stone, BSWCD | Amanda Abajian, BSWCD |
| Harry Menser, BSWCD   | Linda O'Hare, BSWCD   |
| Greg Becker, NRCS     | Jessica Erikson PRWC  |
| Alice Wallace, BSWCD  |                       |
| Herman Collins, BSWCD |                       |

Absent: Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC, Jennifer Jensen, U of I  
Guest: Terry McGuirk

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 by Chairwoman Alice Wallace.

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

**Financial Report:** Cassie reviewed the August financials and recommended approval. Cassie moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve the August financials, *the motion carried.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**SWCC Match Report:** Amanda advised the board that the FY2017 match report was successfully submitted to the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission by the deadline of August 16, 2017.

**PERSI Application:** Amanda advised the board that all required documentation was submitted to the PERSI board for review in August, and Bonner SWCD was approved to become a PERSI member effective September 1, 2017. Amanda will be working with Mary-Claude and the PERSI representative to prepare for the first payroll contribution which will take place on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service Wetland Beaver Dams Project:** Amanda reported that she visited the potential site for faux beaver dam installation with Greg Becker, Juliet Berenetti with the US Fish and Wildlife Services and Susan Firor with Alta Science & Engineering Inc. on August 28<sup>th</sup> up in main drainage of Bismark Meadows. Susan advised the location would be a strong candidate for successful results in helping to restore the water table by installing faux beaver dams. During the August meeting the board expressed their concerns with the admin fee being too low at 10%, but due to the work being a part of a federal contract this amount cannot be increased. The board agreed that the 10% admin fee would be acceptable in accepting to work with USFWS. Greg Becker will be finalizing the project with the property owner Mike Reynolds, and work would potentially begin in the fall of 2018.

**Division I Fall Meeting:** The Fall Division I meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am at the CdA Resort & Casino. The district conservationist Greg Becker will be unable to attend due to training conflict, but Kirk Sehlmeier will be attending in his place. Dale moved and Herman seconded the motion for the district to pay for employee and board member registration fees for Division I meeting, *the motion carried.*

**Fair Booth:** Amanda presented to the board that the fair booth was awarded a white ribbon for keeping with theme of "Remembering our Roots". The raffle basket compiled by the district as a giveaway contained the book, "The Worst Hard Time", 5 Tree Seedlings from Tauber Farms, \$20.00 gift certificate to Mountain Cloud Farm (donated), local Huckleberry Jam, Gemberry Huckleberry Taffy (donated), "Take No Bull" drink cozy, "Avoid the Shore, Ride

the Core” bumper sticker, and a “Clean, Drain, Dry” floating keychain. The district offers a big thanks to Jessica Erikson, Jennifer Jensen, Greg Becker and Kirk Sehlmeier for donating their time to help with the rainfall simulator demonstrations that were held on Friday and Saturday of the fair.

**Payroll Law Workshop:** Amanda advised the board she has registered and is prepared to attend the payroll law workshop in Spokane, WA on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2017 Boat Inspection Season Report/AIS Sticker Sale Report:** Linda presented that boat inspections were up by 15% from the 2016 boat inspection season, and advised that inspecting boats going both directions at Samuels’ station made a large impact on these numbers. The total sticker sales for 2017 were \$81,965.00, which is a \$17,486.00 increase in sticker sales from 2016. Storage this year will be at Idaho Department of Lands again, and they have cleared away hay out of the covered storage to make room for the two Hotsy units. ISDA is renting one Bert’s storage unit for smaller Hotsy and various equipment, and remaining equipment and supplies are in BSWCD storage unit.

Linda advised she would highly recommend rehiring all of the current boat inspection attendants for the 2018 season. Dale moved and Harry seconded providing the same bonus structure as last year to the boat attendants, and increasing the bonus for supervisors to \$250.00, *the motion carried.*

**New QuickBooks Purchase:** Amanda presented to the board two options for purchasing a new QuickBooks for the district. After researching the available versions it has been narrowed down to the online QuickBooks Essentials 2017 or the Desktop Pro 2017. The board expressed that they would like to base their decision off the recommendation our auditor could make. Amanda will discuss the options with Leonard Schulte and come to a decision with him within the next week. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the approval of purchasing a new QuickBooks after receiving recommendation from our auditor Leonard Schulte, *the motion carried.*

**Tree Sale Update:** Amanda presented to the board that as of 09/06/2017 the district has sold 37,101 trees, and is currently waiting for a final estimate from Inland Forest Management on how many trees they will be purchasing this year. There are still many seedlings left for sale, but a previous large buyer expressed he still may be putting in a couple large orders for new clients.

**Fair Board Meeting:** Amanda presented to the board that the fair board will be meeting on the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Cassie Tauber will be attending the meeting to represent Bonner SWCD and their concerns in regard to the scheduled fair dates.

**319 BAG Presentation:** Amanda will be presenting the district’s 319 application for the East Spring Creek Road/Lightning Creek Breach project to the Basin Advisory Committee on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Coeur D’Alene with assistance from Greg Becker.

**Schweitzer Creek Possible 319 Project:** Amanda presented to the board that her and Greg Becker will be visiting Schweitzer Creek on September 19<sup>th</sup> with Matt Mulder from Bonner County Road & Bridge to review site for potential 2018 319 application.

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

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Bonner SWCD by Linda O’Hare:** Linda’s written report is included with the minutes.

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

**Pack River Watershed Council:** Jessica Erikson reported: 1) she helped district with fair booth by running the rainfall simulator demonstration on Saturday morning of fair weekend 2) Met with Ken Bouwens from IDFG to review data from the Pack River Temperature Monitoring program for future potential restoration projects. 3) 6 new loggers were purchased and installed in river to replace missing or broken loggers 4) she helped Molly with August

Lakes Commission meeting at the Columbia Bank. 5) The Pack River Pioneers will be hosting a garbage pickup at the Pack River on 09/17.

**Brad Shelton:** Brad reviewed the Conservation the Idaho Way Monthly District Report with the board. For FY2017 it was found that 91% of districts responded that they are satisfied with Commission services, 2% were neutral, and only 7% are somewhat dissatisfied. Brad also emphasized to the board that statewide for FY2017 nitrates were reduced by more than 142,000 tons, Phosphorus by over 28,000 lbs., and sediment was reduced by over 148,000 tons. Brad reported he is currently working with Benewah County on the St. Joe project.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05.

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District Supervisor Signature

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Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of August minutes

Approval of August financial reports

Approval of paying for registration for board members and employees for Division I Fall meeting

Approval of providing bonuses to boat inspectors same as 2016 and increasing supervisor bonuses to \$250 each

Approval of purchasing new QuickBooks for district with recommendation from Leonard Schulte