

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 7, 2017
Time: 1:05 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Sandpoint, ID



Attendance:

Herman Collins, BSWCD	Greg Becker, NRCS
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD	Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC
Alice Wallace, BSWCD	Jessica Erickson, PRWC
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD	Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD	Guest: Tony Sunseri, NRCS

Absent: Erin Mader, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Vice-Chairman Dale Van Stone. Herman welcomed Tony Sunseri, Area Conservationist for NRCS, to the meeting.

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

Financial Report: Alice reviewed the January financials and moved to approve them. Cassie seconded, *the motion carried.* Alice moved, seconded by Dale to approve transferring \$18,000 from the LGIP to Columbia Bank, *the motion carried.* Of the \$18,000, \$10,000 is from POBC funds and \$8,000 is from District funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Days Report: Tom Daniel sent a written report regarding the IASCD board meetings, the Division I display booth, and the Legislative Social he attended in Boise for Division I. The report was read and discussed. Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to donate \$50 toward 2017 Legislative Social, *the motion carried.*

FY2018 Annual Plan of Work and Update of Five-Year Plan, Technical Assistance Requests: The "NACD Conservation District Evaluation Guide" was reviewed that the board was given at the January meeting. The district is doing well in most categories, but will concentrate on a public outreach plan, updating MOAs, completing a resource inventory, and assigning budgeted funds for annual plan of work goals. Linda will make the approved updates to the Annual Plan and present all the information at the March meeting for approval.

Fair booth – Remembering our Roots – August 8-12, 2017: The board discussed using the NRCS Rain Maker and manning it by the office staff and board for demonstrations. Tony Sunseri suggested contacting Alyson Young, the NRCS Soil Scientist, to demonstrate how to use it. We would request the smaller table top machine. Cassie moved and Dale seconded the motion to register for a small booth at the fair for \$75, *the motion carried.*

Boat Inspection Station Status: Linda reviewed the status of the boat inspection stations since the last meeting. Tomorrow ISDA Director Celia Gould will meet with JFAC members Senator Keough and Rep. Ball to discuss the 2017 season, so hopefully we will know hours and length of season, along with our contracts, soon. The board directed Linda to go ahead with advertising for the positions according to last year's schedule – even though we do not have a contract – so we are able to meet our obligations for opening three stations in Bonner County once ISDA has the details of the program for 2017 secured. Alice moved and Dale seconded the motion to have Linda proceed as if we had a contract - if the final decision is to have hours similar to last year or the year before, *the motion carried.* If ISDA and the Legislature decide on 24/7, a special board meeting will be called to discuss it.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Dale moved and Harry seconded the motion to elect Alice Wallace as Chairman, *the motion carried.* Cassie moved and Harry seconded the motion to retain Dale Van Stone as Vice-Chairman, *the motion*

carried. Alice moved and Harry seconded the motion to elect Cassie as Secretary/Treasurer, *the motion carried.* Everyone thanked Herman Collins for his many years as Chairman of the Board – at least 15 years!

Division I Meeting – April 14 - Sandpoint: Dale moved, Alice seconded the motion to proceed with plans to have the Division I at the Community Room in Columbia Bank and catered by Tango Café for \$20.00, *the motion carried.*

Civil Rights/EEO: Greg reported there will be a NRCS QAR (Quality Assurance Review) of the Sandpoint Field Office the first week of May, and they will ask to interview a board member. Tony Sunseri assured the board they would not schedule it during the May 11th Forestry Contest.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker and Tony Sunseri: Greg reported they are very busy with 52 eligible applications, 1 CSP, 4 Wetland Restoration, 1 Ag land Easement, and the rest EQIP. Tony Sunseri reported on the 90-day job freeze. The DC position in Benewah is in a holding position as the final offer had not been completed. If they allow an exemption, then the DC position in Boundary would be vacant and Greg would cover Bonners Ferry as well as Sandpoint. NRCS staffing in Idaho is at 82% capacity – they are down 32 positions at this time. Andrea Burton is the new Soil Conservationist in Coeur d’Alene, that position was completed in time.

POBC & LAS by Molly McCahon: Molly reviewed her written report regarding: 1) Lakes Commission meeting Jan 27th & concern over possible cut backs to ISDA watercraft inspection program; 2) HECLA discussed purchase of Montanore mine in Troy; 3) Federal regulation change to mining law on stream protection; 4) comment letter submitted on Columbia River System Operations EIS; 5) Molly will be attending the Northwest Hydropower conference in Portland Feb 21-24; 6) Planning for Priest Lake Study will start in March – there is an opportunity to get money through the legislature with Water Resources Board money behind that; 7) Plans have begun for Waterlife Discovery Center classes; and 8) keeping up with ongoing Planning & Zoning sub-area planning meetings.

Pack River Watershed Council by Jessica Erickson: 1) Jessica reported on attending the Selle Valley P&Z sub-area meeting and the concerns of the residents with too many variances granted, non-adherence to sub-division rules, fear of Greenprint without rural input, and concern over P&Z only using Facebook to notify residents of meetings. 2) Jessica also reported on attending the January Avista funding meeting, and both our PRWC and temperature monitoring requests were granted. Avista is in the process of changing how they do their funding. Linda met with Ken Bouwens regarding the funding. After he meets with Avista he will let us know if it has changed. 3) Jessica will pursue getting longitude and latitude for crossings in the Grouse Creek Watershed Assessment to see which ones are still relevant to pursue updating. 4) The PRWC Annual Plan will be finalized this month.

SWC by Linda O’Hare: Brad Shelton from Rathdrum is the new Div. I Water Quality Resource Conservationist.

Bonner SWCD by Linda O’Hare: Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes. The board said to go ahead and donate \$10 for jury duty Linda served on February 2nd.

Dale moved, Alice seconded motion to go into Executive Session, *motion carried.* Dale moved, Alice seconded motion to return to regular session, *motion carried.* Molly has decided to keep her position as POBC Coordinator. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to have Linda advertise for her District Administer position immediately at \$15 - \$18 an hour depending on experience and education, for 40 hours per week, *the motion carried.* Advertise through March 20th, screen the week of Feb 20 – 24th, set up interviews for Feb 27 and 28, contact references, then submit the name for hire at the March 7th board meeting. Advertise for a background in business and natural resources, with a business degree preferred. The job description was reviewed, to be finalized tomorrow before the advertisement goes out. Advertise through the Daily Bee, Department of Labor, and Sandpoint Online.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of January minutes

Approval of January financial reports
Approval of transferring \$10,000 POBC & \$8,000 district funds from LGIP to Columbian bank
Approval of paying \$50 to ISDA for Legislative Social
Approval of paying \$75 for small booth at Fair
Approval of starting hiring process for boat attendants unless 24/7 is chosen by ISDA
Approval of Alice Wallace as Chair, Dale Van Stone as Vice-Chair, and Cassie Tauber as Treasurer
Approval of charging \$20 for Division I Meeting April 14th at Community Room with Tango Café providing food
Approval of moving into and out of Executive Session
Approval of beginning hiring process for District Administrator at \$15-18 an hour, doe

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.