

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: January 7, 2014  
Time: 1:30 pm  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD  
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD  
Vern Hollett, BSWCD  
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD (1:45 Arrival)  
Harry Menser, Associate  
Greg Becker, NRCS  
Molly McCahon, Lake Assist  
Erin Mader, POBC  
Mark Hogen, SWC  
Linda O'Hare, BSWCD

Absent: Alice Wallace, BSWCD; Fairy Delay, Associate

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order at 1:30.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Dale moved to approve the December minutes; Vern seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

### **Financial Report:**

Herman reviewed the December financial reports and recommended they be approved. Dale moved to approve the December financial reports, Vern seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **NRCS by Greg Becker:**

- The deadline for EQIP signup was December 20<sup>th</sup>, and the Sandpoint field office had 43 applications with 35 to 40 looking strong. This is the highest number this office has had.
- The Independent Highway district will have a brief report at the next meeting regarding Schweitzer Road.

**POBC by Erin Mader:** Erin reviewed the information regarding placement of no wake buoys in the Clark Fork Delta to prevent further erosion, and Erin requested a letter of support for the project from the district. This request will go to the Waterways Board for approval first, then to IDL. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion for the district to provide a letter of support for the Clark Fork Delta buoy project, the motion carried. Erin reviewed the rest of her written report which is included with the minutes.

### **Lake Assist by Molly McCahon:**

Molly reviewed the 2014 LAS Work Plan which had been included with the mailed board packets. Linda reviewed two options for the board on funding the program in 2014 which ranged from costing the district \$20 per hour to \$16.75 per hour for a position of 30 hours per week. POBC is supporting the position with a donation of \$5000 and a very specific work plan, and we are hoping to receive additional funding from historical donors. Dale suggested requesting specific funding from the County for this position. This position will be funded in large part by BSWCD in 2014, with the intent of grant funding to continue after 2014. Mark Hogen discussed areas he could help the district with regarding natural resource surveys, and writing and implementing 319 grants, especially regarding road culverts and partnering with the County. Molly has started working on an EPA educational grant that would help fund four additional water festivals. There was interest at our water festival last year from people in Ponderay County, Washington, and from people in Coeur d'Alene, on starting water festivals in their areas. The board felt this was a good fit, and to pursue it.

**BSWCD by Linda O'Hare:** Linda reviewed her written report which is included with the minutes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**L\*A\*S Status:** The L\*A\*S proposal was reviewed under Molly's report, and will be decided upon during Executive Session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Potential District Projects:**

- The focus of the district over the last few years has been on water quality and water quality projects. The district would like to make sure they are also meeting the needs of agricultural producers. The district will request information through the Co-op newsletter and will work on an article due mid-February. Greg will attend the Cattlemen’s Association Meeting in February – Linda will work with Greg on a postcard/survey Greg can hand out requesting the top three farming concerns.
- Supervisor Cassie Tauber is looking into strengthening Ag Tourism in Bonner County through her participation in the Bonner County Ag Advisory Committee. Their next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>, and Cassie will report on this at the February district board meeting.
- Harry Menser reported the next Farm Tour meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at County Extension, and this year’s tour will focus on farms in southwest Bonner County.
- Mark Hogen suggested a couple areas he could help us with regarding ag in Bonner County, including a GIS layer that shows ag exemptions.

**ICRMP Terrorism Risk Insurance, Reject or Accept:** Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to reject the additional coverage for Terrorism Risk Insurance, the motion carried.

**IASCD/SWC Legislative Days:** After a short discussion it was decided not to attend the January 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative Days this year.

**James Hutchens Payroll Services:** The board was apprised of the increases in payroll costs in 2014.

**Idaho State Insurance Fund:** The board was apprised of the premium increase for workman’s compensation insurance.

Invoking Idaho Code 67-2345, Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to into Executive Session, the motion carried. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to return to the meeting, the motion carried.

Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to support a LAS position for Molly McCahon in 2014 at 30 hours a week, pay at \$15.00 per hour, and benefits for 2014 to include the twelve paid holidays listed in the Personnel Policy at 6 hours per day. At the April board meeting the board will address an insurance benefit for Molly. The motion carried.

Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to give Linda a \$150 Christmas bonus, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Linda O’Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

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District Supervisor Signature

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Date

**Recap of Motions:**

- Approval of December minutes
- Approval of December financial reports
- Approval of rejecting additional Terrorism insurance
- Approval of going into executive session
- Approval of leaving executive session and returning to the regular board meeting
- Approval of 2014 LAS position supported by BSWCD at \$15 per hour, 30 hours a week, 12 paid holidays
- Approval of \$150 Christmas bonus for Linda