

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: December 2, 2014
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD
Alice Wallace, BSWCD
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD
Harry Menser, BSWCD
Greg Becker, NRCS
Molly McCahon, LAS/POBC

Mark Hogen, SWC
Brad Bluemer, Bonner County Weed Dept.
Jennifer Jensen, Bonner County Extension
Linda O'Hare, BSWCD
Jessica Erickson, Pack River Watershed Coordinator
Guests: Eric Grace & Regan Plumb,
Kaniksu Land Trust

Absent: Fairy Delay, Associate; Vern Hollett, Associate

The meeting was called to order at 1:30. Herman welcomed everyone and made introductions.

Kaniksu Land Trust: Eric Grace & Regan Plumb from the Kaniksu Land Trust presented information on their organization, and gave more details about the joint easement they are working on with Greg and NRCS's ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program) program to help a local landowner put 414 acres into a conservation easement. This is the first time this program has been used in Idaho. At this time Kaniksu has 2,255 protected acres in Bonner County and western Montana, 15 completed projects, and 5 projects they are currently working on.

North Idaho Water Rights Adjudication: Molly gave a power point presentation on the meeting she attended on November 18th by Norm Semanko regarding Water Rights Adjudication. Molly will continue to gather information and do outreach on this subject.

Approval of Minutes:

Alice moved to approve the November 2014 minutes, Dale seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Financial Report:

Alice reviewed the November financial report and moved to approve it, Harry seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

After a review of the State Insurance Fund premium increase for 2015 (rates went slightly down but because of payroll increases the total premium has increased), Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve the \$1713 estimated premium for 2015, *the motion carried.*

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS by Greg Becker: Greg updated the board on the following projects:

- ACEP on Pack River: The forest management plan is already finished and they are working now on the grazing plan which should be done in the spring. Other easement details will be completed in January. Agricultural practices will continue on the land, but future development has been eliminated.
- WRP at Spirit Lake: The 2 foot pipe is buried, the diversion structure is in place, so it will be ready for spring flooding. Greg recommended this as a good field trip site for the June board meeting.
- EQIP: They received 45 applications by the deadline. Last year they had 22 contracts approved, and Greg feels they have an even stronger pool this year.
- Realtor Class: The 2nd class was held on November 10th, and again was very successful.

- Willow Harvest on November 12th: 8400 willows were harvested for the Clark Fork Delta project, and with the 22 volunteers at the site everything went very smoothly. Greg suggested Forest Service training for certification on chain saws for anyone in the future wanting to help with cutting the willows. Herman thanked everyone who helped on this – Greg & Kirk & Sean, and Dale, Harry, Molly and Linda (and Thank You Herman).

SWC by Mark Hogen: Mark gave an update on SWC personnel, both Jan Webster and Alicia Hardy have submitted their resignations, and George Hitz has been hired for Division V Resource Conservationist. December 10th Ray Ledgerwood is giving a presentation in Boise for the Commission, and on February 3rd the SWC is presenting at JAYFAC.

- Mark presented a slide show of pictures depicting culvert failures and erosion on Beach Road, with the intent of assisting the district in writing a 319 grant. Everyone agreed it was a great project.
- Mark presented the board with copies of his Ag TMDL Implementation Plan for the Lower Clark Fork River Subbasin, and asked the board to review and offer any suggestions or changes.

Bonner County Weeds by Brad Bluemer: The weather conditions have not permitted any further progress on the test plots for aquatic weed control of flowering rush. This April the first government land will be treated.

UI Extension by Jennifer Jensen: UI Extension is hosting the following classes: December 3rd pesticide recertification; December 5th tree ID and wreath making at 10:00 at the fairgrounds, and in February a class on Women in Agriculture. This is a presentation of WSU, but will feature local partners. She may hold a class on high tunnel installation in the spring, and will include NRCS.

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

- Meeting with Tom Woolf & ITD Thursday regarding a Clark Fork Boat Inspection Station
- 2015 Work Plan developed for Pack River Watershed Council
- IFOA Forestry Committee – offering 15” plugs in 2017
- TU donated proceeds from small film event on November 18th to Water Festival -- \$239.91
- January 27th is the day for Legislative Displays in the Capitol
- The board was reminded of the Christmas Party next Tuesday at the Edgewater
- Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to pay the NRCS storage unit rent through the district, then be reimbursed by NRCS, *the motion carried*. The storage unit bookkeeper does not receive electronic payments, and that is the only way NRCS pays bills.

Herman shared the Daily Bee article about a park being developed at the fairgrounds, and asked if the district would like to donate to it. The board was in support of a donation and will look into that after getting more information.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on IASCD State Conference in Lewiston, Nov. 16-19: Dues were voted on at \$1800 per year.

SWC Performance Report for FY2014: Dale moved and Alice seconded the motion to approve the FY2014 Performance Report, *the motion carried*.

Pack River Watershed Council: Coordinator Jessica Erickson's 4th quarter report was included in the board packets. Linda reviewed with the board Jessica's suggestion on featuring the availability of native plants in an article on riparian buffers in the River Ranger. The board approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Assist 2015: The board was given financial information to verify the availability of funds to support the Lake Assist position for 2015. Cassie moved and Harry seconded the motion to approve Molly McCahon's Lake Assist contract for 2015 with the addition of insurance up to \$40 a month, *the motion carried*.

Letter of Agreement for 2015 with Pend Oreille Basin Commission (POBC): Harry moved and Alice seconded the motion to amend the Letter of Agreement to also include Molly McCahon as a district employee providing

services to the POBC, the motion carried. The LOA will be addressed by the Commission at their December 16th meeting.

Audit Approval: Dale moved and Alice seconded the motion at approve the FY2014 Audit submitted by Leonard Schulte, the motion carried. The board asked Linda to invite Leonard to a board meeting to review parts of the audit.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of November minutes

Approval of November financial report

Approval of State Insurance Fund premium of \$1713

Approval of paying a year's rent on the NRCS storage unit, then being reimbursed by NRCS

Approval of FY2014 Performance Report

Approval of Lakes Assist contract for Molly McCahon for 2015

Approval of amending Letter of Agreement with POBC to add Molly McCahon's name

Approval of FY2014 Audit submitted by Leonard Schulte