



# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009  
Time: 11:00 a.m. with pizza  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101 – Sandpoint Field Office

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD      Kate Wilson, Associate  
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD      Greg Becker, NRCS  
Vern Hollett, BSWCD      Jamie Davis, IASCD  
Alice Wallace, BSWCD      Linda O'Hare, BSWCD  
Cassie Tauber, BSWCD      Guest: Bill Love, IDL  
Fairy Delay, Associate      Guest: Ray Delay Jr., Co-op

Absent: Ed Nurmi, Associate

Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chairman Herman Collins. Herman welcomed guests Bill Love and Ray Delay.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Vern moved to approve the January 2009 minutes and Cassie seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

### **Financial Report:**

Vern reviewed the January financial report and moved to approve it. Cassie seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Cassie moved to pay the following bills: \$35 IDEA dues, \$400 IASCD dues, \$175 Workman's Comp Insurance, and \$202.64 Daily Bee ad for Lake\*A\*Syst position. Dale seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS:** Greg Becker reported on the following highlights from his written report:

- Potential Cocolalla Wetlands Project – met with F&G and IDEQ regarding returning Fish Creek to its natural channel. Work would be with private landowners in the area for flood water features and flood water relief.
- WRP: The Wetland Restoration Program is well-funded this year – the state of Idaho has \$800,000. Let Greg know if you have suggestions on areas or landowners.
- EQIP: Deadline has been extended to February 13<sup>th</sup> – we already have 30 applicants at this time.
- Septic Program – working on 319 grant application
- Bottom barrier proposal given to Task Force to be included in BSWCD's proposal
- Priest River water system expansion review: Priest River is considering building new water tank west of town – Greg looked into viability of soils etc. for construction in that location.

**IASCD:** Jamie reported as follows:

- Septic rule failed in legislature
- Pend Oreille River Subdivision Grant Proposal Update: Total projected cost is \$100,000 with landowner contribution of \$20,000 and grant request of \$80,000. Jamie found out the USFWS Partners Program grants have a cap of \$25,000, so she submitted two proposals for \$25,000 each – one for bank stabilization component and one for riparian buffer demonstration. These were approved at the January board meeting and submitted by January 30<sup>th</sup>. To cover the rest of the project Jamie presented a NFWS Five-Star Restoration Program grant with a cap of \$40,000 for 2-year projects that is due February 16<sup>th</sup>. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve this grant

application. *The motion carried.* The board recommended on this project and other similar ones, that the contract with the landowner stipulates the opportunity for yearly visitation to confirm the viability of the stabilization and to monitor the success of the various plants.

- Jamie was holding off on the Pend Oreille Calendar project due to the uncertain future of the IASCD Sandpoint position, but was encouraged to move forward on it. Kate and Greg both said they could help with it – or ask for help from the Nearshore Committee.
- Jamie reviewed her 319 Proposal for the Pend Oreille Nearshore Septic Pilot Project. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$101,201.47, and the 319 request would be for \$60,720.88. Match from the landowner and in-kind from IDEQ and BSWCD would make up the difference. Cassie moved and Dale seconded the motion to submit the pre-application and continue with the process. *The motion carried.*

**BSWCD:** Linda O'Hare reviewed her written report:

- L\*A\*S:
  1. Received the IDEQ contract for \$15,000 from the Pend Oreille Basin Commission for Priest Lake\*A\*Syst 2009. Herman signed the contract and it was returned. We await confirmation of liability insurance certification and then the funds should be available.
  2. Coordinator Position: Ad has been in Daily Bee, posted at Job Service, listed on the website, and various colleges have been contacted. Closing date for applications is February 12<sup>th</sup>, screening will be on the 13<sup>th</sup>, interviews the next week. A name will be presented to the board at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Employee may start on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  3. Prepared mailing with recommended BMPs to landowners who completed surveys. The mailing also includes a questionnaire post card for the landowner to complete and return evaluating the effectiveness of the LAS materials..
- Farm Bill CTA Funds: Of the \$2500 allotment, \$1264 remains as of the first of February. The funds need to be used by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Tree Seedling Sale: Working on calling the 19 buyers who ordered species unavailable.
- Mailed Forestry Contest donation request letters, emailed all conservation districts requesting \$25

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**QuickBooks:** Herman and Linda will make a decision on online or desktop by the next meeting. *The motion carried.*

**L\*A\*S Coordinator Position MOA:** Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the new MOA with IASCD for managing the payroll for 2009. *The motion carried.*

**Lower West Branch Priest River WQPA Fund Balance:** Jamie and Greg will have more information at the next meeting on the proposed project on a tributary north of the Lower West Branch. Landowner has been out of town.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Projects/Grants for 2009:** Kate Wilson reported that the grant proposals approved at the last board meeting were given the support of the County Commissioners. Herman signed them and they were submitted to Boise. Kate and Jamie will travel to Boise on February 17<sup>th</sup> to present them to the Eurasian Scientific Review Team. Herman thanked Kate for her exceptional work on the proposals.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**State Funding for Water Quality Resource Conservationist Position:** The state will continue to fund Jamie Davis' position until the end of March. She has secured funding with IDEQ for \$9000 to help through this fiscal year. Dale moved and Cassie seconded the motion to approve the MOA with IASCD to fund Jamie's position with \$7000 of Lake\*A\*Syst funds that are currently with IASCD. *The motion carried.* These two sources of funds will secure Jamie's position through June, and she is working on several ideas for funding beyond that.

With all the work Jamie has done in the past and is currently doing for the City and the County, it was suggested to contact them for funding also.

**Forestry Contest Funding:** Bill Love with the Idaho Department of Lands presented information to the board regarding IDL funding for the Forestry Contest coordinator position. IDL will be able to fund the position this year, but all part-time positions may be cut by the next year – which would eliminate the coordinator position. Funding has been between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Discussion followed with several ideas including entry fees, sack lunches, finding more donors, and grants. The contest has never had entry fees and always provided a free barbecue lunch. School funding may also be a factor in the future of the contest.

**Mileage Rate Change:** Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to change the state rate as of January 1<sup>st</sup> from \$.505 to \$.455. *The motion carried.*

**Division I Meeting:** The Division I meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup> in Sandpoint. Linda and Alice will work out the location details. Kate said Cathy Cousins, F&G, will be doing a presentation on the Pack River Delta project in Sandpoint that afternoon, and Kate will talk to her about an 11:30 presentation at our Division meeting.

**Priest River TMDL Implementation Plan for Ag:** Jamie reviewed the TMDL process, and requested the board review the Priest River TMDL Implementation Plan for Ag prepared by Mark Hogen for approval at the next board meeting. Either Jamie or Mark could answer any questions.

**Five Year Plan:** The templates for the FY2010-14 Five-Year Plans have just been received by districts. Linda gave the board copies of BSWCD's previous Five-Year Plan for review to update at the next meeting. The final report needs to be submitted by May 8, 2009.

**NRCS Farm Bill CTA Funds:** April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to utilize the \$2500 funds allocated to the Sandpoint field office, and there is a balance of \$1264 as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg needs more Farm Bill administrative help, and would like the BSWCD to hire Dennis Aslett, the Sandpoint field office ACES employee for the next two months to utilize those funds. The liability insurance the district has would cover this employee. Cassie moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the job description for a Natural Resource Technician. *The motion carried.* Cassie moved and Dale seconded the motion to approve of hiring Dennis Aslett as a temporary employee for February and March as the District's Natural Resource Technician and of signing the Employment Agreement. This is a temporary at-will position. *The motion carried.*

**Pend Oreille Water Festival:** After discussion, Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to donate \$500 to the Pend Oreille Water Festival. *The motion carried.*

**Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area MOU:** The previous MOU's for membership in the SCWMA had expired. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve of having Herman sign the current MOU. *The motion carried.*

**FY09 State Funding:** Jerry Nicolescu's letter outlining the basis for allocation of state funds was reviewed. The board supported some kind of percentage cap that would eliminate in the future the imbalance of distribution that occurred this year.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was available for review:

- 1) Lawson Aerators for rent by conservation districts
- 2) State Insurance Fund: Policyholder Disclosure Notice of Terrorism Insurance Coverage
- 3) Idaho Ag in the Classroom

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of January 2009 minutes

Approval of January financial report

Approval of 4 bills presented

Approval of NFWS Five-Star Restoration Grant proposal

Approval of 319 Grant proposal for the Pend Oreille Nearshore Septic Project

Approval of the MOA with IASCD for L\*A\*S payroll for FY2009-10

Approval of MOA with IASCD for funding Jamie's position for April –June 2009 with \$7000 of Lake\*A\*Syst funds

Approval of mileage rate change from \$.505 to \$.455

Approval of Natural Resource Technician job description

Approval of Employment Agreement with Dennis Aslett

Approval of donating \$500 to Pend Oreille Water Festival

Approval of MOU with SCWMA

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