

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2009  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101 – Sandpoint Field Office

Attendance: Vern Hollett, BSWCD                      Greg Becker, NRCS  
                  Alice Wallace, BSWCD                     Molly McCahon, L\*A\*S  
                  Cassie Tauber, BSWCD                        Linda O'Hare, BSWCD  
                  Fairy Delay, Associate                        Guest: Bob Tribelhorn, NRCS  
                  Kate Wilson, Associate

Absent: Herman Collins, BSWCD; Dale Van Stone, BSWCD; Ed Nurmi, Associate; Jamie Davis, IASCD

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Vern Hollett. Bob Tribelhorn, Area Conservationist for NRCS, was welcomed and introduced to new BSWCD members Molly McCahon and Kate Wilson.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Alice moved to approve the March 2009 minutes and Cassie seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

### **Financial Report:**

Vern reviewed the March financial report and recommended it be approved. Alice moved the March financial report be approved, Cassie seconded the motion, *the motion carried.*

Cassie moved to pay the following bills: Petty Cash \$47.32, Sdpt Chamber \$105, SEEP Reg. for Molly McCahon (LAS funds) and Jessica Erickson (Pack River W.Co. funds), Selkirk Press \$120.44 240 newsletters printed, Selkirk Automated Postal \$38.00 200 newsletters mailed. Alice seconded the motion, *the motion carried.* Joe Dos Santos of Avista approved Jessica Erickson's SEEP training out of Pack River Watershed Council funds.

Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to transfer \$3000 general funds from LGIP to PSB. *The motion carried.*

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS:** Greg Becker reported as follows:

- Completed snow survey at Schweitzer, Smith Creek, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Moisture content was 60-70% of normal at the beginning of March, but is now up to normal.
- Adria Mead, a Mead College freshman, has been hired as an NRCS student trainee to begin in Sandpoint this summer. The trainee position is geared to work into a Soil Con/Forester position.
- EQIP ranking questions have been drafted at the Division level, and Greg asked for input before they are finalized on Friday. He will email them to board members. Ranking used to be done at the state level and then the county level; with the new Farm Bill it is now done at the state level then the Division level.

Bob Tribelhorn reported as follows:

- Bob explained his position to the new members of the board. His title is Western Resource Conservationist, and he and one other position handle the whole state.
- Stimulus Funding: Idaho has been designated for \$300 million through NRCS/RC&D's. The 4 categories they are looking at first are Carbon Sequestration, Climate Change, Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy. There is a possibility more funding may be available this summer which could include Watershed Protection/Improvement, which is where BSWCD requested funding.

- Bob extended congratulations to the Sandpoint field office for everything done here over the last couple of years.
- Due to budget constraints, vacated positions are not being filled right away, but so far they do plan to fill any positions that are open. A few offices do have shared management.

**IASCD:** Jamie was working on a project out of Sandpoint, so Linda reviewed her written report:

- Pend Oreille River Subdivision Grant Proposal Update:
  - \*\*USFWS grant request for \$50,000 – not funded, turned over for stimulus funding
  - \*\*Five-Star Restoration Program grant finalized at \$40,000 - no word back yet
- 319 Proposal Pend Oreille Nearshore Septic Pilot Project – review final proposal at May meeting
- IDEQ Source Water Protection Program Grant – final proposal for \$20,000 submitted April 2<sup>nd</sup> – will primarily cover printing books for Division I L\*A\*S, probably Priest and Twin Lakes.
- TransCanada Corporation: Proposal for \$2500 for continuation of Division I LAS activities. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to submit this proposal. *The motion carried.*
- Schedule for 2009 SEEP training: Hayden March 25-26, St. Maries April 8-9, Bonners Ferry April 22-23, Smelterville May 6-7, Kootenai County May 20-21.
- Garfield Shores Resort contacted Jamie re partnering with L\*A\*S to deliver water quality and boating information to their clientele. Events are planned for Memorial Weekend, Father’s Day, and July 5<sup>th</sup>. They would like to have the boat wash station available on Father’s Day.
- Dover City Hall site visit regarding riparian demonstration planting.
- Attended meetings of Sandpoint Transition Initiative and Pend Oreille Waterkeeper to keep them informed of our office’s services and projects.
- USEPA Workshop on System for Urban Stormwater Treatment and Analysis Integration – A Decision Support Framework for Placement of BMPs in Urban Watersheds to Protect Source Waters and Meet Water Quality Goals. May 7<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, no registration fee. Jamie asked for district support to attend – IDEQ, her other sponsoring partner for 2009 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – has approved. Alice moved the district pay up to \$500 in her expenses. Cassie seconded the motion, *the motion carried.* Linda reported Jamie thought her expenses would total around \$200.

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

- Herman is in Arizona and visited Ed Nurmi Friday night for 3 hours. Ed is doing well, and enjoyed the conversation with Herman.
- Farm Bill CTA Funds – all \$2500 have been expended, \$1016.84 to Dennis, \$1486.54 to district.
- Division I EQIP-WQPA Administrative Reimbursement – As a result of the Division I EQIP-WQPA review meetings, hourly reimbursement for Bonner supervisor position has been changed from \$15.00 to \$20.00, Kootenai-Shoshone has been changed from \$15 to \$17, Benewah and Boundary remain the same.
- Boat Wash Station: Received contract from Department of Ag with added paragraph stating, “The parties agree that ISDA assumes ownership of the wash stations and pressure washer purchased partially or fully by the Grantee under this Grant with grant funds.” This allows us to operate the wash station while liability remains with Department of Ag. Greg has not heard anything regarding the RAC proposal submitted for another wash station.
- Waterlife Discovery Center: There is a balance in the WCRP grant of \$2982.84. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to write a check to Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation for the balance. *The motion carried.*
- Sold 19,020 trees for planting in Bonner County, with a profit of \$3,096.62. Tree pickup is Friday.
- Forestry Contest: A few new donations have come helping to offset the loss of donations from local mills that were closed. Bill Love took the display board to the Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference in Moscow in March and Ara Andrea, a Program Manager with IDL, took it to the Intermountain Logging Conference in Spokane last weekend. A few donations and volunteers have resulted.
- Tri-State would like to borrow our two tables for their April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to allow Tri-State to borrow and return our two tables. *The motion carried.*
- Dick Rush has been nominated to be the administrator for Idaho FSA, and if chosen he would have to give up his seat on the Soil Conservation Commission. There is a balance between Republicans and

Democrats on the Commission, and this would leave a position for a Democrat. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to send Governor Otter a letter recommending Dale Van Stone for Commission seat if Dick Rush has to resign. *The motion carried.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**RC&D/NRCS Stimulus Funding:** This was reviewed in Bob Tribehorn's report.

**Five-Year Resource Conservation Plan/Annual Plan:** Cassie moved and Alice seconded the motion to table this to the May meeting. *The motion carried.* Linda will mail draft versions to board members mid-April. The budget deadline is May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Plan deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Earth Day:** Harry Menser will participate with Scott Daily in the Memorial Phase I plantings on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting with County Commissioners:** Joe Young met with Dale, Greg, Jamie, Molly and Linda, and was joined by Cornel Raisor half way through. Another meeting was scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> to review the MOA between the county and BSWCD, and to have Marie Scott there to review the district's budget request.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fair Booth:** Cassie moved and Alice seconded the motion to reserve a double fair booth, half paid through BSWCD and half paid through L\*A\*S. *The motion carried.* Discussion on an interactive booth being manned by board members was discouraged.

**Tri-State Semi-Annual Conference:** Cassie moved and Alice seconded the motion to pay Herman's mileage and per diem for the April 15-16 meeting in Sandpoint. *The motion carried.*

**L\*A\*S Cell Phone coverage:** After discussion, Cassie moved and Alice seconded the motion to have Molly keep track of her work appropriate minutes for a month to see what that does to her current cell phone plan, and at the next meeting the board will review those figures and determine what percentage of reimbursement to pay her, which will be retroactive to April.

**Bottle Bay Expansion of Land Application Site:** Greg reviewed the information from the Bottle Bay Recreational Water and Sewer District regarding the proposed land acquisition they have proposed as a part of their re-licensing through the IDEQ. Alice moved and Cassie seconded the motion to write a letter of support from Bonner SWCD. *The motion carried.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was available for review:

- 1) Inland Forest Management Spring 2009 newsletter
- 2) Idaho Ag in the Classroom info
- 3) ISCC – Emergency Teleconference Monday, April 6, 2009
- 4) TransCanada re electronic funds transfer

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Recap of Motions:**

Approval of March 2009 minutes  
Approval of March financial report  
Approval of paying listed bills  
Approval of transfer of \$3000 from LGIP to PSB  
Approval of TransCanada Corporation proposal for \$2500 for Division I L\*A\*S  
Approval of paying half of Jamie's travel for Stormwater workshop in Seattle May 7th  
Approval of paying the \$2,982.84 balance of WCRP grant to Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation for WDC  
Approval of Tri-State borrowing 2 tables for Sandpoint meeting  
Approval of sending a letter to Governor Otter recommending Dale Van Stone for a vacant ISCC position  
Approval of tabling Five Year Plan to May meeting  
Approval of reserving a double fair booth, half district, half L\*A\*S  
Approval of paying Herman's per diem and mileage for Tri-State meeting in Sandpoint  
Approval of sending a letter of support to Bottle Bay Sewer District re land acquisition expansion

*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.*