

# Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

## Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011  
 Time: 2:00  
 Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD Molly McCahon, L\*A\*S  
 Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Linda O'Hare, BSWCD  
 Vern Hollett, BSWCD  
 Harry Menser, Associate  
 Greg Becker, NRCS  
 Nick Studebaker, NRCS  
 Guests:  
 Cornel Rasor, County Commissioner  
 Erin Mader, POBC

Absent: Alice Wallace, BSWCD; Cassie Tauber, BSWCD; Fairy Delay, Associate; Ed Nurmi, Associate

The board meeting was called to order at 2:05. Herman welcomed Cornel Rasor, Bonner County Commissioner.

### Approval of Minutes:

Dale moved to approve the February 2011 minutes and Vern seconded the motion. *The motion carried.*

### Financial Report:

Vern reviewed the January financial report and recommended that it be approved. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the February financial report, *the motion carried.* Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to donate \$50 to Envirothon, and \$500 to Pend Oreille Water Festival. *The motion carried.*

### AGENCY REPORTS

**NRCS:** Greg Becker concentrated his written report on the draft of an outline for the natural resource plan he has developed for Jimmy Belamy and the Clagstone Development. This plan is a way to manage the open space and keep the value of the natural resources available. The plan should be reviewed by agency folks, as well as the neighboring landowners. Cornel Rasor said the Commissioners have given Clagstone conceptual approval – they may move forward to develop the plan. If everything goes well, the development will happen in 16 to 20 years. Water usage will be an important issue.

**Pend Oreille Basin Commission:** Erin Mader reported as follows:

- No update on the lake level fluctuation.
- Rathdrum CAMP Meetings: They have submitted a plan to the Water Resource Board stating the aquifer is recharging well as is. If they did need to recharge it, the water would come from Lake Pend Oreille. More information will be needed on the effects of that.
- Waterlife Discovery Center: Molly and Erin sent invitations to schools for field trips for Grades 2-7 to the WDC, and have enough volunteers lined up to conduct the field trips.
- Earth Day: An event is planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sandpoint Event Center. POBC will pay for the booth, and information will be posted on POBC, BSWCD, and NRCS. Molly and Erin will be promoting digging flower rush the next day as a part of the AIS Task Force Outreach Committee. They also have contact John Hastings at Sandpoint HS and Julie Williams at the Sandpoint Charter School to have their classes help pull flowering rush the week of Earth Day.
- East Kootenai Invasive Plants Council has invited Erin to speak at their conference on April 7<sup>th</sup> in Cranbrook, Canada. They have also requested information on our boat inspection stations, and Linda will help Erin compile that information. There will be around 150 people in attendance.
- Columbia River Treaty between the US and Canada: This treaty expires in 2024, and needs to be approved 10 years in advance, or 2014, in order to meet any new requirements by 2024. The situation with the dams that have been built and the power being sold from the dams will be addressed.

**L\*A\*S:** Molly reported as follows:

- She will start back full time in a couple weeks, and with existing funding will be able to work full time through July.
- She met with the Boy Scouts leaders regarding utilizing their services to distribute the LAS books – she is waiting for their response.
- Regarding the flowering rush digs, she and Erin will teach the students in their classrooms about digging flowering rush before they actually take them to the site. They will show pictures of past diggings so the students are prepared for the mud. Nick Studebaker will help also.
- AIS brochure: Erin and Molly are working on an AIS brochure, and it will be ready to be mailed in June with the Pend Oreille Messenger which is mailed out by Tri-State Water Quality Council.
- Inland Northwest Community Foundation Community Strategies Grant: This grant that we submitted the end of December was denied. Molly would like to submit a grant to the INCF's Equinox grant funding which concentrates more on environmental issues. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to support Molly applying for the Equinox grant to fund L\*A\*S work at the Waterlife Discovery Center. *The motion carried.*

**BSWCD:** Linda O'Hare highlighted her written report which included the following:

- Boat Inspection Stations: Contacted some of last year's employees regarding returning this year and wish to extend invitations to them from the board to return. Erin has looked into a couple issues for the stations, and 1) the information for state police is very similar to last year, and 2) the small amount of wastewater we produce can be delivered to the Albany Falls site.
- LAS: Working on CdA LAS Guidebook project.
- District Project Activity: Linda suggested the board help spruce up our 2 projects at Memorial Field, and coordinate with Kim Woodruff and the city crew, and perhaps Native Plant Society. Kim said he would be glad to coordinate with us on that. Molly suggested the end of May when the weeds have started growing, and the board agreed to help with that. Dale will coordinate with the County work crew on that also, and maybe have them help with replacing the hard wood chips in the microfiltration basins.
- Other items: Completed and submitted Antidegradation Plan; working with Kristin Magruder and Billie Brown on Spring Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission tour; mailed Forestry Contest February newsletter and donation letters, and have received \$1,425 so far in donations; Water Festival meeting next week.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Division I Meeting March 17, 2011 in Sandpoint:** The site of the Division Meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> has changed to the Holiday Inn Express, as we were unable to work out the contract insurance for the Community Room. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to pay the registration for attendance at the Division Meeting for the board and associates, Linda, Molly and Nick. *The motion carried.*

**Boat Inspection Program for 2011:** Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to extend invitations to the 10 people Linda has contacted from last year's attendants who wish to return, Vern seconded the motion, *the motion carried.* Tom Woolf called, has sent an amendment changing the payment to a lump sum at the beginning of the contract. He also said our MOU only states a total amount for our grant, not an individual hourly rate to pay our employees. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to sign the amendment changing payment to a lump sum at the beginning of the contract. *The motion carried.*

**QuickBooks in FY2012:** No new information, will postpone until next month.

**Division I WQPA:** WQPA Amendment for the 1-year extension was revised between our ICRMP attorney and the Attorney General's office so it is now agreeable to both parties. With that approval, Billie Brown, Division I Director, is requesting approval from the districts in Division I. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to have Herman sign the WQPA Amendment, *the motion carried.*

**Farm Tour Meeting:** The next Farm Tour meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 am at Connie's. Our meetings are with Boundary County this year, and the plan is to have the 2 tours back to back so a film crew from the Boise office of the Farm Bureau can make one trip to film them both. The tentative dates are June 3<sup>rd</sup> for Boundary and June 4<sup>th</sup> for Bonner. Mike Bauer with the UI Extension Office is coordinating the efforts.

**Coeur d’Alene Lake\*ASyst Guidebook Project:** On Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Tom Herron, Glen Rothrock, Rebecca Stevens, Erin Mader, Molly McCahon, Herman and Linda met regarding contracting with IDEQ to have Molly revise the existing LAS book for Lake Coeur d’Alene. Glen will provide a draft of a contract by Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> which will be for April 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Dale suggested we call a special meeting after the Division Meeting to address this contract so it can begin April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WQPA Payment Approval Request:** Contract #74021107005 was reviewed by the board; Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to have Herman and Greg sign the Payment Approval form. *The motion carried.*

**New Associate Board Member:** Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve Erin Mader, Coordinator for the Pend Oreille Basin Commission, as a new Associate Board Member for the Bonner SWCD. *The motion carried.* Herman welcomed Erin.

**ISWCC Spring Meeting Tour in Sandpoint:** The Commission has decided to hold its Spring meeting in North Idaho, and is looking at having a tour of projects in Bonner County one afternoon, then their meeting in Coeur d’Alene the next day. The Commission is coordinating with the Governor’s office to set a date that works with both offices.

**Report from Commissioner Rasor:** The County is dealing with exemptions for Grazing Land, Dry Grazing Land, and Timber Land, which have all been classified as Agriculture land. The Conservation office may be getting phone calls for clarification on these areas. Greg reported he has had several so far.

**Miscellaneous:** Harry Menser asked if the County Extension offices were moving to the Ag Extension site. Commissioner Rasor said there is talk of it, but nothing has been decided yet. Harry also reported there has been a drop of 30% in income from Idaho Nursery and Florists this past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.  
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 February 2011 meeting minutes
- Approval of February 2011 financial report
- Approval of donating \$50 to Envirothon and \$500 to Pend Oreille Water Festival
- Approval of Molly applying for Equinox grant
- Approval of paying for board and staff to attend Division I meeting
- Approval of hiring 10 former boat inspection attendants
- Approval of signing Amendment to MOU with ISDA regarding lump sum payment
- Approval of signing Division I WQPA Amendment
- Approval of signing Payment Approval for WQPA Contract #74021107005
- Approval of Erin Mader as a new Associate Board Member

*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.*