

Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101

Attendance: Herman Collins, BSWCD Greg Becker, NRCS
Dale Van Stone, BSWCD Molly McCahon, L*A*S
Vern Hollett, BSWCD Linda O'Hare, BSWCD

Absent: Alice Wallace, BSWCD; Cassie Tauber, BSWCD; Fairy Delay, Associate; Harry Menser, Associate;
Erin Mader, Associate

The board meeting was called to order at 1:40.

Approval of Minutes:

Linda informed the board that the lake level next year will be 2051 feet, and she had changed that in the minutes. Vern moved to approve the corrected October 4, 2011 minutes, and Dale seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

- Vern reviewed the October financial report and moved it be approved. Dale seconded the motion, the motion carried. Linda pointed out a change on the September financial report due to an error by the payroll service. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the corrected September statement. The motion carried.
- At the suggestion of our auditor, Linda is looking into using a separate bank account for the payroll service. She will report at the December meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS: Greg Becker reported as follows:

- Fish Creek Road: The contractor has completed his work, Greg has inspected the work and considers the project completed.
- Schweitzer Road 319: The presentation at the Basin Advisory Group meeting went well on this 319 project proposal which is now sponsored by the Independent Highway District, but the project did not rank very highly. Greg recently received the analysis on the sodium chloride sample from the lab in Kellogg, and the analysis was exactly the same as table salt, with no traces of arsenic or cyanide. The project also received informal approval from Fish and Game. The project will still be presented to IDEQ at the state level for funding, but in the meantime the City and the Independent High District plan to go ahead with plans to use the sodium chloride on the Schweitzer Road this winter. Greg felt the collaboration from the different agencies on this project was very beneficial, and helped incorporate the safety measure of daily water quality testing by the City at their water drinking source.
- POBC Funding Request to Avista: Greg met with Diane Williams of Tri-State Water Quality Council to hear her perspective on the POBC funding request last month. Diane explained to Greg that Avista funding in the past has gone to on-the-ground mitigation projects tied to impacts from Avista's dams on the lower Clark Fork River, and this was a request for general operations funding. The proposal also had not been ranked, another deviation from the Avista process. Diane felt that the integrity of the proposal process and intent for the AVISTA funds needed to be protected. Greg and Diane agreed that good communication between partners is extremely important now and in the future. Greg left the meeting feeling appreciative of hearing Diane's explanation of the proposal process. He also was encouraged by Diane's willingness to find resolution to any misunderstandings between Tri-State and POBC.

- Concurrent with the meeting taking place, Linda received a call from Erin Mader and the request for funding for POBC had just been approved by Avista. The proposal had gone through the ranking process, and was approved for funding up to \$50,000 with an end date of 6-30-12, and it is a one-time funding request with no extension and no renewal.

L*A*S: Molly reported as follows:

- Pend Oreille Bay Trail: Molly has been monitoring some soil moved from the water treatment plant to land now owned by the City that will be a part of the Trail. The soil has been hydro seeded, but may need further stabilization to keep it from sloughing into the Lake.
- The Fall SEEP (Stormwater Erosion & Education Program) classes were held at Panhandle Health District on October 18th and 19th in Sandpoint. Twelve people attended with three from the city of Sandpoint.
- CdA Lake Management Plan L*A*S Book: The writing process is going well with great input from IDEQ, but it is taking longer than expected due to the busy schedules during the work season this summer. Glen Rothrock is going to submit an amendment to extend the deadline past December 31, 2011.
- Molly has been requested to help the Planning Department for the City of Priest River through a grant they received to train personnel and the community on water quality related to stormwater, recreation, and construction. Molly will be meeting with Bill Cleveland (Planning Administrator) on November 14th to discuss how LAS can help and if funding is available to do that.
- An Ellisport Bay landowner requested help with native plantings on his 200 foot shoreline.
- Met at the Waterlife Discovery Center on October 11th to discuss a WDC management plan with F&G. Mark Taylor and Tom Whalen both agreed a full time maintenance schedule was needed and they suggested contacting Pete Gardner, who will be making those decisions from now on. Molly will request a letter of support from Pete Gardner with F&G confirming a commitment to hiring a maintenance crew. Once we have a letter, L*A*S will commit grant funds to projects at the WDC.
- Molly will schedule a L*A*S Steering Committee meeting in January.

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

- SWC has announced the following: Norman Wright (Caldwell) and Gerald Trebesch (Boise) have been appointed by Governor Otter as the two new SWC commissioners. Erin Seaman has been hired as the RCRDP Loan Assistant, which opens up her part-time position with the SWC. Delwyne Trefz, a Water Quality Resource Conservationist from Marsing, has been hired as the new District Support Services Specialist.
- Boat Inspection Stations: The financial report was completed and submitted. Dan Whatley will attend a meeting November 9th regarding Early Detection and Rapid Response on Aquatic Invasives; and Linda, Dan and Herman will attend a Wrap-Up AIS Summary meeting in Post Falls on November 10th with an emphasis on education and inspection on transport of boat lifts and docks. Three instances of mussels being transported on these devices have occurred. Vern moved and Dale seconded the motion to pay for travel expenses for Linda and Dan on Thursday. *The motion carried.*
- Linda was contacted by a representative of the Master Naturalists volunteering to help not only at the WDC, but also on any other district projects which might benefit from their expertise.
- Linda met with Jessica Erickson, Coordinator of the Pack River Watershed Council, and established goals for 2012.
- NRCS has offered Farm Bill Assistance Program funding for districts through IASCD. Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to request this funding. *The motion carried.*
- Rich Braden, the Executive Director of Spokane Conservation District, is retiring. A reception is being held for him on Friday, November 18th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.
- FarmTour – We will view the video of the 2011 Farm Tour at the December 6th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Grouse Creek Project: The work on this project will begin in July, 2012, after more funding is secured.

ICRMP Training: Information from the ICRMP training attended by Herman and Linda was included in the board packets to be reviewed for next meeting.

Highlights of Fall Division I Meeting in Plummer: The Division II Strategic Plan, which was presented by Ken Stinson during the program at the Division I meeting, was shared with the board. Also, the new legislative district map was shared with the board.

NEW BUSINESS

IASCD Annual Conference: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to name Herman Collins as the voting delegate for Bonner SWCD, *the motion carried.*

General Release of Liability Form: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to approve the General Release of Liability Form, *the motion carried.* This form was modified from a template on the ICRMP website, and will be used for participants in the annual Pack River float trip.

Avista Funding Request for Pack River Watershed Council: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to request funding from Avista for the Pack River Watershed Council for 2012. *The motion carried.*

2011 Performance Report: Linda will attend the IDEA training at conference geared to help with preparing these reports, and submit the report for approval at the December meeting.

SWC District Allocation Report: The board reviewed the allocation report giving Bonner SWCD \$9803.65 in matching funds.

Christmas Meeting: Dale moved and Vern seconded the motion to have Bonner SWCD pay for the registration for the board members, associates, and office staff for the Christmas meeting. *The motion carried.*

L*A*S Laptop: Herman reported it would cost \$266 to get the old L*A*S laptop updated, and a new laptop costs around \$399. The board will consider this at the December meeting. The diagnostic bill was \$10.59.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted by Linda O'Hare, District Administrator.

Approved by:

District Supervisor Signature

Date

Recap of Motions:

Approval of October 2011 minutes

Approval of October 2011 financial reports

Approval of revised September 2011 financial reports

Approval of travel expenses for Linda and Dan to Post Falls AIS meeting

Approval of requesting Farm Bill Assistance program funding

Approval of Herman Collins as voting delegate at IASCD State Conference

Approval of the General Release of Liability Form

Approval of requesting Avista funding for Pack River Watershed Council for 2012

Approval of paying for Christmas meeting registration for board members, associates, and office staff

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.