

**WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES –February 26, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

Place: Cassia County Courthouse, Burley, Idaho
Date: February 26, 2024
Time: 11:30 am
Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present
Richard Kunau – Chairman
Jordan Searle – Vice-Chairman
Chad Searle- Member

Employees, Guests, and Agency Representatives:

Doreen McMurray, I&E Specialist
Rachelle Osterhout, Admin
Betty Carlson, Inspection Station Manager
David Mabey, NRCS
John Erickson, NRCS
Carolyn Firth, ISWCC

Supervisors Not Present
Ken Black - Treasurer

- I. Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Richard Kunau at 11:53 AM
- II. Changes to Agenda:** No changes
- III. Minutes for previous meeting:** January 2024 Minutes – Chad Searle moved to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. Jordan Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the Treasurers Report (transaction detail). Jordan Searle moved to approve Treasurer’s Report as written. Chad Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
 1. **Next Board Meeting:** April 9, 2024
 2. **Division IV Meeting:** March 12, 2024: 9:30 AM, Shoshone Idaho
 3. **Mid Snake RC&D Meeting:** March 15, 2024 11:00 AM, County West Building
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
 1. **Close Zions Bank Account:** Richard Kunau and Jordan Searle are available to meet February 29, 2024 to close the account. Rachelle Osterhout will contact Ken Black.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Division IV Treasurer:** Chris Johnson has resigned as the Division IV Treasurer. During the Fall 2023 Division IV Meeting Twin Falls SWCD made the motion for Richard Kunau to appoint an individual from East Cassia SWCD, Minidoka SWCD or West Cassia SWCD to the position of Secretary/ Treasurer. Snake River SWCD seconded the motion. Rachelle Osterhout will contact Minidoka SWCD.
 2. **Awards Banquet:** West Cassia SWCD will be hosting the Awards Banquet. It will be on June 13, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Burley Straw Maze. There will be a Tri- District Project Meeting prior to the banquet. The Supervisors would like to recognize Kathy Poulton’s 15 years of service and present the 1st Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship. Doreen McMurray will organize a write up to be shared. They would also like to recognize Brents Stoker’s years of service and present him a plaque. They will officially welcome Chad Searle to the board and present him with a jacket. The Board would like to recognize Dale Darrington as Conservation Farmer of the Year. Two students from West Cassia attended Know Your Government. The board would like to invite them and their parents to attend the banquet. They would like to invite Madi Patterson to give an update on the Snake River Quagga Mussel update. The 2023 LSEE video will play while attendees are visiting and eating.
 3. **Dues & Donations:** West Cassia would like more information about Idaho Ag in the Classroom and will reconsider their donation at the next board meeting. Rachelle will email the Meridian office. Jordan Searle made the motion to pay Mid-Snake RC&D dues for \$50.00, Division IV dues for \$80.00 and donate \$50.00 to Envirothon. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 4. **Tri-District Project Committee Update:**
 - a. **Direct Seed Drill Update:** The Cassia drill rental income for 2023 was \$20,815.79, repairs totaled \$5,049.36. The Cassia drill Net income was \$15,766.43.
 - b. **Moisture Monitoring Project:** The project is up and running. 12 growers are participating in the project. This is a cost share project with the grower contributing \$1,050.00. Each district paid

\$6,000.00. The Tri-District Project Committee will be adding the remainder of the funds. We have completed the forum training for all 12 of the growers. The district will have access to the data for 52 moisture monitors.

5. **Office Update & Supplies:** Rachele Osterhout will be moving back to the NRCS office in March. Rachele and Doreen McMurray have been cleaning out files and organizing the office space. Rachele requested a new filing cabinet and an office chair. Jordan Searle made the motion to allocate \$800.00 to purchase a filing cabinet and office chair for the office space in the NRCS office. Chad seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
6. **Kathy Poulton Memorial:** Doreen McMurray updated the board about the Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship. The family would like to present 1- \$1,000.00 scholarship for 5 years. They would like to encourage anyone who will be furthering their education to apply (training, technical school, or college). They would like to have included in the application how they are connected to the Soil and Water Conservation District in the application. Doreen will also add how they know Kathy.
7. **ICRMP Building & Contents:** Rachele presented the ICRMP building and contents spreadsheet to the board. Jordan Searle made the motion for the contents value to remain the same at \$10,000.00. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
8. **5 Year & Annual Plan:** 5 Year & Annual plan is due March 31, 2024. Doreen McMurray and Rachele Osterhout will be updating the report. It will be emailed to the board for review and any changes they would like made. Rachele will submit the report by March 31, 2024. West Cassia will approve the report at the April 2024 meeting.
9. **Other:** Rachele Osterhout shared information about the South Ridge Dairy Digester Project and a brochure about the IAMP funds.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS

1. **NRCS Update:** David Mabey updated the board on funding with the NRCS. He introduced John Erickson. He will be working in the Burley Field Office. He also received the MOA's for the districts and will be talking to their grants and agreements specialist. He recommended the district read through and highlight any questions or concerns.
2. **ISWCC Update:** Carolyn Firth updated the board on what is happening in the Legislature on House Bill 403 that has to do with a 7-member board or a 5-member board. House Bill 1283: Persi Exemption for Seasonal Employees of Conservation Districts. Rachele has contacted Sarah Garcia to get clarification about what this does for Cotterell Boat Station employees. Funding was secured with JFAC for WQPA for 1 million dollars. Cordell Searle is still interested in applying for WQPA funding for a dairy project. Mannings in Oakley are looking to replace aging pipeline in the Burch Creek area. West Cassia will support the project.
3. **Cotterell Inspection Station Update:** Betty Carlson shared an email from Cole Morrison. Nic Zurfluh has been promoted to Bureau Chief of the Invasives/ Noxious Weeds/ Range divisions. Cole has been promoted to Program Manager. He will oversee the deployment of staff, monitoring, and inspection station operations. There is a virtual meeting March 4, 2024 at 10 AM. The books for the 2023 season have been closed. West Cassia is waiting to receive the final payment. New agreements for the 2024 season are in the process of being signed and sent out to cooperators. The Cotterell Station is planning to open during the week of March 4, 2024.

Adjourn: 1:24 PM

The Meeting Adjourned at 1:24 PM with a motion from Chad Searle. Respectfully submitted by Rachele Osterhout.