

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

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April 8 2021 1:20 p.m. in the classroom in the McGregor building on the Minidoka Fair Grounds, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Kossman. Those in attendance were Brian Kossman Chairman, Aaron Firth Treasurer, Jason Thomas County Extension Educator, Carolyn Firth SWCC, Melanie Nebaker TA, Sharon Hardy (Wilmot) Admin, with Dusty Wilkins Vice Chairman, and Dinah Reaney NRCS on the phone.

Minutes of the March 11 2021 meeting were approved with a motion by Aaron and a second by Dusty. Motion carried. The bills and financial statement were presented by Aaron with discussion about increasing the Credit card limit from \$1000, to \$1500. A motion to approve the bills and increase the card limit was made by Dusty, with a second by Aaron the motion carried.

Business:

The email that we currently use as back up through PMT will now cost \$9.99 a month, a motion to cancel this email address was made by Aaron, with a second by Dusty. Motion carried.

The T.A. request for Carolyn through SWCC was reviewed and a motion for Brian to sign it and Sharon to submit it was made by Dusty with a second by Aaron.

Tree sales are almost finished with pick up planned for the third week in April, Sharon will text everyone to let them know when, where and the time for bagging the orders.

Scholarship applications were presented- only 2 were received and both were very well done and met the requirements. After discussion and mention that there is carry over from last year it was decided to present both applicants with \$750.00 each. The scholarships will go to Hana Pfeiffer and Mason Wilkins the motion was made by Aaron with a second by Dusty motion carried.

County Extension Educator Jason talked to the board about the current running ad on social media and discussed options and ideas for one involving the issue with nitrates in our water.

NRCS Dinah reported that 3 projects have been funded, CSP signups are now, Soft conversion program RCPP will go until June with M.I.D.

SWCC Carolyn reported that Minidoka is now ranked #3 up from #21 just 6 years ago in high nitrates and noted that Cassia is called Marsh Creek on the maps, the information on ranking is open for public comment. Also reported that the Districts who participated in the survey that most suggested equal distribution, the next suggestion was to reduce the cap, the final decision is forthcoming. Carolyn also reported on the Abandoned well project, stating that many wells noted on maps are injection wells on the A&B project. If the irrigation wells had originally been equipped with variable drive-pumps they may not have needed the injection wells. She has spoken to Clifton Barnes of IDWR and he will assist with information where available, also Apex Drilling stated that it will cost around \$1800.00 to \$2500.00 to plug an average irrigation well and \$600.00 to \$800.00 for domestic wells. Some pictures were passed around of some open wells that could meet the criteria of needing to be capped.

T.A. Melanie reported there are 2 high tunnels applications waiting for funding, and 18 projects have been organized into the appropriate folders and reporting audits for Cassia and Minidoka contracts are in the works. Also, she and Dinah are wrapping up the last of projects started by Hayden Carson who is no longer with NRCS. She mentions that there may soon be a new hire for one of the vacant positions in Burley.

Aaron mentioned the possibility of a deep soil testing unit that could be available for purchase for projects the district may want to continue with. He will follow up with more research as to the requirements for equipment and training to acquire samples. There could be cost sharing for nutrient management and nitrate degradation plan, possible CIG moneys or even U of I or a consulting person. People to contact could be Carl Baily, or Matt Payton possibly a subcommittee could be formed to meet in November, It was also mentioned in the discussion and noted that in Iowa and Nebraska they now have state regs regarding soils and nitrates and other bio ingredients stating you have to meet criteria and if you don't you have to do xyz. SO, before we are regulated, we need to help our growers to meet the demands and needs. We should invite the commissioners for discussion, so they are on top of this also and possibly do a pilot program and find funding for cost sharing.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Hardy (Wilmot)