

WEST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES – September 13, 2022 BOARD MEETING
1361 E. 16th St. Burley, Idaho

Place: 1361 E. 16th Street, Burley, ID
Date: September 13, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present
Richard Kunau- Chairman
Kathy Poulton- Treasurer
Ken Black- Member
Kyle Bowers- Associate Member

Employees and Agency Representatives
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin
David Mabey- NRCS
Carolyn Firth- ISWCC
Melanie Nebeker- TA 2021 Employee
Betty Carlson- Cotterel Boat Station Manager

Supervisors Not Present
Jordan Searle- Vice Chairman
Brent Stoker- Member

ACTION ITEMS

- I. **Called to Order by:** Richard Kunau at 11:05 AM
- II. **Changes to the Agenda:** Kolter Mabey will be calling to thank the Board for purchasing his Lamb at the 4H/ FFA Market Animal Sale at the Cassia County Fair.
- III. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Ken Black moved to approve August 2022 minutes. Kyle Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Poulton moved to approve Treasurer's Report for August 2022. Ken Black seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- V. **Calendar of Events:**
 1. **RC&D Meeting:** September 23, 2022 @ 11 AM, Tubb's Farm
 2. **Next Board Meeting:** October 11, 2022 11AM- NRCS Conference Room
 3. **Speech Contest:** October 20, 2022 (more information to come)
 4. **Poster Contest:** October 21, 2022 (more information to come)
 5. **Division IV Meeting:** October 27, 2022 (Balanced Rock SCD hosting)
 6. **LWG:** November 9, 2022 10 AM to 1 PM- McGregor Building, Rupert Fairgrounds
 7. **IASCD Conference:** November 15-17, 2022, Burley Idaho
 8. **Workshop:** January 2023

Rachelle checking date for Land Judging. October 13, 2022 (Doreen will be sending information)

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

1. **NRCS Update-** David Mabey shared information about the upcoming Infrastructure bill. They are anticipating they are going to set aside a very large chunk of money for USDA. David is not sure exactly how much we will be given per state but rumors are that there will be a significant amount added to our Team EQIP Fund Pools. Last year was approx. \$525,000 for reference. In addition, it is expected that our other programs will get a boost as well. In summary we are being told to look forward to a significant increase in available funding, action is happening to increase our staff numbers to deal with the increased workload. Opportunities for other funding, special projects, and partnerships, is also expected to increase. The LWG would be a great place to start these conversations and together with the SWCD's, could sponsor and request funding for these in addition to the normal EQIP funding.

David shared the upcoming announcement to fill our last Soil Conservationist Position. We are only allowed to advertise on USAJOBS.com. Would the Districts be interested in adding the announcement link to the USAJOBS.com site to their Facebook and webpage when it flies to help us find the best applicants? This will be a bulk announcement with over 20 positions state wide. The Local Work Group Meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2022. David asked the Board if they would be interested in having a Q&A session prior to the meeting? The purpose of this was to explain how LWG decisions are transposed to Ranking questions which directly affect what applications get selected

for funding. He sent out a copy of the email sent last Nov. with the ranking questions for FY 2022 for District review. He would like to answer any questions and make sure the districts understand the process prior to the LWG as there is no time during the busy LWG schedule. These questions are created by David and Dinah, and with the help of Carolyn this past year based on the notes taken during the LWG. Rachele Osterhout let the West Cassia Board know East Cassia would be interested in meeting 1 hour prior to the LWG meeting. It was also suggested to provide donuts and drinks.

2. **ISWCC Update-** Carolyn Firth shared Delwyne Trefz update. The Commission would like pictures of the WQPA projects as they work on them. Melanie Nebeker said she could take pictures of the Sage View Ag project. Carolyn will also be following up with Craig Searle and Trek Reed about the progress of the project. The Commission is looking to secure more WQPA funds in the upcoming legislative session. If you have any project ideas, please contact Carolyn.

The first Commission meeting with the new Board members was held August 25th.

Board members:

Erik Olson, Boundry SWCD, Division I
Steve Becker, Nez Perce SWCD, Division II
Joan Cloonan, Ada SWCD, Division IV
Karen Sharpnack, Wood River SWCD, Division IV
Wendy Pratt, Central Bingham CD, Division V
Richard Savage, Clark SCD, Division VI

District's annual report to the Idaho State Local Governing Entities Central Registry is due to the State Controller's Office December 1st. Rachele Osterhout updated the Board that she has turned all of the documents to the accountant for the audit. As soon as it is finished, we can move forward with sending in our report. 2022 District Performance Report are due December 20.

3. **TA 2021-** Melanie Nebeker has been busy finishing up CRP's. She has also been helping Brooke with Pheasants Forever work. Melanie and Carolyn finished the "Soil Your Undies" project. They dug up the underwear. One field had been worked 3 weeks after they buried them and was not able to retrieve them. They commented that over the course of the project they have seen an increase in movement in the soil. All that is left of the underwear is the elastic and the string. Melanie has been very busy coordinating an SGI/ EQIP project for Chatburn Ranch in Albion.
4. **Cotterel Boat Station-** Betty Carlson updated the Board on the boat station activity. Since Labor Day they have noticed the boats have really slowed down. Betty dropped hours back to 20 hours (was running 24 hours). Betty also hired a new employee at the end of August. She had an employee quit because he was leaving for college. The last day the station will be open is October 31. Then they will have a few days to close down the station. Betty asked if the district is still interested in running the station next year? The Board commented they appreciate the great job Betty does running the station. They will continue to run the station. Betty would like to approach the State about adjusting the contracts between the ISP and the County. She said ISP is very active in being present for their allotted shifts.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Laptop:** The laptop has been purchased and Rachele Osterhout delivered it to Doreen McMurray. She has been working on getting it set up.
2. **Other:** Kathy Poulton presented the ICRMP and SIF Idaho Workers Comp policies and billing statements to the board. She asked if they wanted to pay the ICRMP bill in 2 payments or in 1 payment? The board would like to pay it in 1 payment. Rachele will get these payments sent.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **IASCD Conference:** Rachele Osterhout handed out registration forms, information about speakers, and awards information. Richard Kunau said Oak Valley Dairy is going to be a sponsor.
2. **LSEE Location:** Doreen McMurray is looking for a testing site for the upcoming contest. Does the Board have any suggestions?

3. **Soil Moisture Monitoring System:** In the districts ICRMP policy under West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District Property In The Open- they have a soil moisture monitoring equipment that is housed in the NRCS's storage unit. Rachelle Osterhout asked if the district still needed this covered under the policy? The district discussed the item and would like it removed. Rachelle will update their information to remove it.
4. **Other: Kolter Mabey** called during the board meeting and thanked the district for purchasing his 4-H/ FFA Lamb at the Cassia County fair. He also made cinnamon rolls and sent to the meeting.

Ken Black made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:51 PM. Kathy Poulton Seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout