

**Tri District Board Meeting
East Cassia, Minidoka & West Cassia SWCD
DRAFT MINUTES – EAST BOARD MEETING
McGregor Building, Rupert Idaho (Fairgrounds)
March 10, 2022**

Place: McGregor Building

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Presiding: Steve Ward

Supervisors Present

Rob Cottle- Chairman

Ken Woodworth- Treasurer

Mark Webb- Member

Hannah Sanders- Member

Employees and Agency Representatives:

I&E Specialist- Doreen McMurray

Rachelle Osterhout- Administrative Assistant

Dinah Reaney-NRCS

Carolyn Firth- ISWCC

Supervisors Not Present:

Steve Ward- Vice Chairman

ACTION ITEMS

- I. Called Tri-District Meeting to Order by:** Minidoka SWCD Chairman Brian Kossman called meeting to order at 1:32PM
- II. TA 2022 Priority Request-** Supervisors discussed the Technical Assistant position. During the discussion they recognized the accomplishments that Melanie has completed and they feel the purpose of the grant has been fulfilled. The third round of the TA grant started in January 2022 and will expire approximately January 2023. Richard Kunau made the motion to NOT apply for the TA Grant again. Mark Webb seconded. Motion passed. Aaron Firth abstained.
- III. Direct Seed Committee Update-** The committee recommended continued drill rental through the spring and will re-evaluate the drill situation (to sell or continue renting) at the next meeting planned for July. Committee also recommends continuing with a workshop but with reduced expenses and change of focus to water issues.
- IV. Division IV Meeting Report-** Richard Kunau stated that there were 9 of the 11 Districts represented by Supervisors and there was good participation and good district reports. West Cassia SWCD hosted the meeting and all 5 Supervisors took part in training or presenting at the meeting. The meeting spotlighted Districts, District Activities, and District Supervisor Training. Cooperating agencies also gave report.
- V. IASCD Conference Dates-** The districts discussed the available dates for conference, November 8-11 and November 15-18. They agreed the November 15-18 would work best. Richard will report to the IASCD officers.
- VI. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS**
 - 1. NRCS Update-** Dinah Rainey updated the boards with the NRCS report. 2022 EQIP applications- all applications submitted have been preapproved and are in the process of being contracted. 2nd round for EQIP applications is April 29. This includes the Sage Grouse Initiative and RCPP projects. Other funding programs that will be coming available are the CIC program (designed to be a step up from EQIP), Urban Development will be available to customers interested who live within the city limits in Minidoka and Cassia Counties. Dinah presented Maureen Pepper's Water Quality Initiative PowerPoint presentation.
 - 2. ISWCC Update-** Carolyn Firth reviewed Delwyne Trefz's report from Division IV meeting. She reported that WQPA is a grant program and could provide money for water projects and for districts. She reminded everyone that TA requests are due at the end of March. They will be starting the 4th year of the Soil Sampling Project. They may also continue with the deep soil sampling project for West Cassia.
 - 3. TA 2021-** Sharon Hardy read the following written report from Melanie Nebeker: Hello Cassia and Minidoka Boards, Sadly I am in another training on the day of the board meeting. This next month I have 11 trainings on my calendar. So it's pretty full. Over the last month I have assessed and rank my EQIP applications. Looks like all of

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mine have been pre approved. I have helped make copies and file some CRP status reviews. My biggest project has been doing Highly Erodible Land/Wetland Compliance reviews. I have validated 10 Minidoka tracts and 9 Cassia tracts. This involves making sure the tracts are HEL/WC, if the producers are receiving USDA benefits, validating that the tract has an annually tilled crop, doing any wetlands on these tracts. If any were invalid I would have to do the same process on a replacement tract. I had 6 replacement tracts I had to do a few times. My next step will be making several maps to go with these tract (FSA tract map, Location Map, Topography Map, 1980s Imagery Map, Soils Map, and Hydric soils list. Copy existing compliance plans, Crop history, and contact info. Compile all this and upload it into a sharepoint on the computer for the compliance team to review. I also have to make hard copies of these compliance reviews to keep in the office.

Joint Meeting Dismissed at 2:47 PM

VII. **Changes to Agenda:** No Changes

VIII. **Minutes for previous meeting – January 2022 Minutes –** Ken Woodworth moved to approve Minutes of previous meeting. Hannah Sanders seconded. Motion Carried.

IX. **Treasurer's Report- July 2021-** Ken Woodworth read treasurer's report for February 2022. Mark Webb moved to approve Treasurer's Report and \$80 for Division IV meeting meal. Hannah Sanders seconded. Motion Carried.

X. **Calendar of Events**

- a. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday April 5, 2022 @ 1:00 PM (Location- TBD)

ACTION ITEMS

XI. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to review.

XII. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Admin Report:

- a. **Five Year and Annual Plan-** The board reviewed the FY 2022 Five Year and Annual Plan. They signed the Certificate of Adoption. Rob Cottle signed the Certificate of Adoption. Rachelle Osterhout will submit the report to the state.
- b. **ICRMP-** Rachelle Osterhout submitted the ICRMP report of February 15, 2022.
- c. **State Forestry Contest-** Ken Woodworth made a motion to pay the budgeted dues amount of \$50.00. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- d. **Tree Sale Update-** Doreen McMurray continues to submit weekly press releases. Tree Sale orders are coming in slow and steady in the mail. Megan Heward is the contact with Schumacher Nursery. We are also planning to bag and distribute the trees from Megan's house again in April 2022. Doreen McMurray and Rachelle Osterhout are entering the orders and deposits. The White Lilac, have sold out and the Chinese Lilac are limited. We cannot order anymore; however, we are able to keep everything else in stock. Joyce Ward had a special order of Russian Olive and we were able to fill her order. Last year there was a customer that lost almost all of the seedlings she planted. We will provide a free bundle of her choice and we were able to get her order placed.

2. Supervisor's Report:

- a. **Employee Wages-** as pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(A)(B) Rachelle Osterhout was excused at 3:05 PM except voting soil district board members. East Cassia, and West Cassia Boards went into Executive Session to discuss Doreen McMurray and Rachelle Osterhout's wages. They exited Executive Session 3:21 PM. DECISION: East Cassia and West Cassia agreed to increase Doreen McMurray's wage to \$24.00 per hour and Rachelle Osterhout's wage to \$18.50 per hour. Ken Woodworth motion to update Doreen McMurray and Rachelle Osterhout's wages. Mark Webb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- b. **Banquet and Summer Picnic-** The board discussed combining the Awards banquet and Summer Picnic. They would also like to combine with Minidoka and West Cassia SWCD. They discussed potential Cassia County residents they would like to honor. They tabled the discussion until the next meeting. July 12, 2022 is the date that has been set.

Adjourned- Mark Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 PM. Ken Woodworth seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout