

**Local Work Group
Annual Meeting Minutes
Rupert Field Office: 98 B South 200 West, Rupert, ID
November 6, 2018**

In Attendance:

Chairman - Brian Kossman,

Vice-Chair - Kathy Poulton,

Members - Steve Ward, Mark Webb, David Mabey, Brent Stoker, Richard Kunau, Carolyn Firth,
Doreen McMurray, and Sharon Wilmot.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Brian Kossman called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.
- II. **Elections:** Brian opened the floor for elections. Mark Webb nominated Brian Kossman to serve as Chairman. Brent Stoker seconded. Brent Stoker motioned that nominations cease. Motion carried. Kathy Poulton nominated Mark Webb to serve as Vice-Chair. Steve Ward seconded. Brent Stoker made motion for nominations to cease. Motion carried. Committee discussed officer needs and determined that committee needs only Chair and Vice-Chair. Brian Kossman will serve as Chairman and Mark Webb will serve as Vice-Chair for one year. Elections will be held again at fall of 2019 meeting.
 1. **Administrator Help:** Board discussed the need to keep agendas and minutes on an accessible computer. Brent Stoker moved to appoint Doreen McMurray as LWG Admin in Cassia office. Richard Kunau seconded. Motion passed. Doreen will work together with other district admin to keep information available to all districts.
- III. **Spring LWG Meeting:** Committee discussed the need to hold a Spring Meeting. Date set will be Tuesday, March 12, 2019 @ 1:00 in the Burley Field Office. Committee will evaluate the state ranking results which used the local group's EQIP Priority Resource Concerns as a guide for their ranking.
- IV. **Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Richard Kunau made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous LWG meeting held on November 28, 2017. Brent Stoker seconded. Motion passed.
- V. **Purposes & Expectations:** David Mabey discussed and reviewed the LWG purpose and expectations. LWG members are an excellent starting point for improving conservation in a larger area. David encouraged planning for special projects which can cover larger areas than a single district.
- VI. **Review of EQIP Priority Resource Concerns:** Committee discussed concerns about water quality and water quantity as top priorities. David Mabey stated that there are \$46,000 in contracts this year. He suggested putting all \$ onto one concern area and focus all projects and efforts on that one concern. He told about Research Grants and Special Projects. (\$ comes from EQIP, \$ could support practices that have already been set up, etc.) Brent Stoker discussed multiple projects in the past that have addressed water quality. Sugar Factory is working on data collection and sharing abilities. QUESTION: Can we apply for \$ to be given to help with Amalgamated Sugar's research on nitrate issues? Carolyn Firth suggested water recharge. Also discussed soil concerns; including soil quality, erosion and plant degraded conditions. Top 5 Resource concerns will be listed as:
 1. Water Quality Degradation
 2. Insufficient Water
 3. Soil Erosion
 4. Degraded Plant Condition
 5. Soil Quality Degradation
- VII. **Local Ranking Questions:** The Committee reviewed last year's ranking questions and updated their recommendations. Brent Stoker made motion to include the following questions, Kathy Poulton seconded. Motion passed to include:

1. Water Quality - Are you in a nitrate priority area? Will you implement BMP's to decrease nitrate infiltration through testing and projects?
2. Insufficient Water - Will the planned practices implement water and energy saving technology to increase application efficiency? Will plan include implementing monitoring equipment, flow meters, variable speed drives, variable irrigation, drip systems, LESA, LEPA, or other advanced technology to increase efficiency and water savings? Is this the first irrigation improvement on this land that has been cost shared with NRCS within 20 years, including pipeline?
3. Soil Erosion - (still concerned about soil erosion - same questions as last year.)
4. Degraded Plant Conditions - (still concerned about soil erosion - same questions as last year.)
5. Soil Quality Degradation - (still concerned about soil erosion - same questions as last year.)

Project format idea: We have #1 nitrate problem, therefore - (show specific project) - We will use \$ to address this specific project & nitrate issue. Can we locate cost share partners? (Rocky Mountain Ag, Amalgamated Sugar, University of Idaho, others???). Committee needs to format a plan- create a trackable project, secure partners, and determine how the plan fits into current EQIP rules.

VIII. **Distribution of EQIP Funds:** Brent Stoker made the motion to keep distribution on EQIP funds divided the same as previous year: Dry Cropland 5%, Irrigated Cropland-Hay 80%, Irrigated Pasture 5%, Range-Pasture-Grazed Forest 10%, and Forest 0%. Kathy Poulton seconded. Motion carried.

IX. **Additional nitrate information:** Carolyn Firth shared past projects to address nitrate issues. She will submit nitrate summary, data, and maps to support nitrate concerns.

Adjourn: Kathy Poulton motioned to adjourn at 3:26.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

1:00pm @ Burley Field Office

Respectfully submitted by Doreen McMurray