

Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

98 B South 200 West Rupert Idaho 83350 208 436 4202

Minutes of the January 14th 2021 meeting held at Doc's Pizza in Rupert Idaho 1:10 p.m.

In attendance: Brian Kossman - Chairman, Dusty Wilkins - V-Chair, Aaron Firth - Supervisor, Russ Suchan - Associate Supervisor and Ag Representative, Carolyn Firth - SWCC, Melanie Nebaker – TA, David Mabey – NRCS, Sharon Hardy – Admin, Reid Bowen – guest

Minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting reviewed and approved with a motion by Dusty 2nd by Aaron motion carried

Minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting reviewed and approved with a motion by Dusty 2nd by Aaron motion carried.

Presentation of new Supervisor Reid Bowen with oath of office and notarized signature of Declaration to fill the four-year term of Luke Adams with possible name to be placed on county election ballot in next election year. Motion to accept Reid Bowen by Dusty, 2nd by Aaron, motion carried.

Election of officers, Nomination of Brian Kossman for Chairman with nominations to cease by Dusty with a 2nd by Aaron motion carried. Nomination of Dusty Wilkins for V-Chairman with nominations to cease by Aaron and a 2nd by Reid, motion carried. Nomination of Aaron Firth for Treasurer with nominations to cease by Dusty with a 2nd by Reid, motion carried.

Signatures for checking accounts to be updated to Brian, Dusty, Aaron and Reid. Sharon is to see who the signatures are on the 1st Fed CD. and possibly leave those as they stand.

Treasurer Aaron presented the bills from December 2020 and January 2021 with discussion to amend the amount for Ag in the Classroom to pay the full amount of dues requested (instead of \$100.00 pay \$150.00) and add that amount to next years budget, also to pay the IASCD Div. IV dues as that bill came in today and was not listed on the bills. Dusty made a motion to pay the bills with the above-mentioned amendments, with a 2nd by Aaron, motion carried.

The Virtual Resolution with the updates and changes was presented, East & West Cassia SWCD have approved the support for this Resolution in their recent board meetings. A motion to submit the current Virtual Resolution to State IASCD was made by Aaron with a 2nd by Reid and the motion carried.

Banquet options for awards for stewardship of the year was discussed. The consensus is; that due to the ongoing concern and restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic that the banquet will not be held this year, and possible awards and awardees could attend a summer picnic or maybe an award could be presented sometime during events at the fair. A possible awardee could be Ted Tateoka. Other names will be submitted for consideration as the time for awards draws

Drill repairs are beginning with a separate bill to be prepared for possible damages to the drill from the last renter to be included in that renter's statement. Also, the tires that need replaced are Goodyear tires, but new ones are not available and will take at least 3weeks to arrive, There are Harvest King tires that are \$100.00 less. Sharon thought they would be a good replacement; the Board chose to stay with Goodyear Sharon will call the Tire company and Jeff to let them know.

Minidoka Commercial to be on social media, Mid Snake RC&D has Instagram (no website) and are willing to put the ad on there, Sharon will contact Debbie Dane at Mid Snake RC&D to see how they want it sent to them to accomplish this. Discussion about putting the ad on Social media in March with a boost post – Sharon will contact Jason Thomas the County Extension Agent who assisted with the commercial to see how to accomplish this. There is \$400.00 in the budget for the ad. The ad is currently running on the minicassiaswcd.com website.

Reports:

Admin: Sharon asked to have her hours changed to the mid-day and afternoons for the month of February. All agreed

Supervisor Reports – Russ stated that the new Ag advisors are up & running, the next meeting is January 26, 2021 they have a new Diesel Tech teacher, and are starting a new Tiny house. We have a very good Ag program going at Minico.

NRCS – David, reported that as of right now there are no office closures in the state, contracting is starting, there is one position open in the Burley office, He stated that Curtis Elke is requesting a spring LWG meeting to review what was discussed last fall as well as another in the fall for the next year. The SWCD Board adamantly stated no more meetings as we can not even meet in our own building, and we are volunteers and this is becoming too much, and David was to take that message back to Curtis Elke.

SWCC – Carolyn stated that there is increasing interest in the project Minidoka raised of capping abandoned wells. Idaho Rural Water Association Chris Johnson is looking into this as an area wide project and searching out funding and numbers of wells and ways to seal them. The next Commission meeting will be January 17th 2021, The dirty undies project and report meeting was interesting with some of the results being presented. The Conservation Tracker from ISWCC is available this is an 18 page document of projects currently in the works for the District. She mentioned the ad/commercial we did is not running on the ISWCC website and will find out what needs to be done to correct that. She mentioned that CREP rate are up to \$320.00 per acre but is a 15-year contract.

TA-2020-2021 planner – Melanie, reported that she is certified to oversee, the high tunnel project for Cassia and Minidoka Counties from start to finish. There were 11 last year and there are 6 for this year. She is working with CRP for eligibility, she will be in the Rupert office on Mondays and Wednesdays and in the Burley office Tuesdays and Fridays.

Employee evaluation will be January 22, 2021 at noon in the Rupert Field office.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Hardy - (Wilmot)