

Local Work Group
Draft Annual Meeting Minutes
Burley Masonic Lodge, 1519 Overland Avenue, Burley, Idaho
December 2, 2019

In Attendance:

Chairman – Brian Kossman

Vice-Chair – Kathy Poulton

Members – David Mabey, Sharon Wilmot, LaRae Warren, Jared Bingham, Lucas Spratling, Chris Johnson, Nolan Branch, Randy Hardy, Sean Woodhead, Sue Switzer, Charles Sandford, Dan Davidson, Brian Kossman, Jaxon Higgs, Ryan Shurtliff, Kathy Poulton, and Gwen Taylor

1. **Call to order:** Brian Kossman called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
2. **Elections:** Brian Kossman opened the floor for elections. Nolan Branch moved that Brian Kossman be kept as Chairman and Kathy Poulton be kept as Vice-Chair. Dan Davidson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Kathy Poulton made the motion to accept the previous minutes from the LWG meeting held November 6, 2018. Dan Davidson seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Introduction, Objective and Agenda:** Meeting Objective presented by Ashley Orme the facilitator for the meeting. What are our objectives? What has worked well in the past and what will work in the future.
5. **NRCS Report by David Mabey, District Conservationist:** Went over the Local Working Group Fact Sheet. NRCS concerns, 2019 Program Review, Changes to FY20 EQIP ranking pools, discussed Cassia and Minidoka summary of received contracted funds. Any funding that is not used can be reallocated in within the local area. Discussed map the Team 12 boundary map. Cassia, Minidoka, and part of Blaine Counties. This is our new working area.
6. **Natural Resource Conservation Priorities:** Broke into small groups representing diverse interests. Identified the top 5 resource concerns for the local LWG area. 1) Water Quality, 2) Insufficient Water, 3) Soil Quality Degradation, 4) Soil Erosion, 5) Excess Water – recharge – runoff.
7. **Distribution of EQIP Funds in the LWG:** Identified ranking pool categories in the LWG. L W G Ranking Pool Categories; 1) Irrigated Cropland – Hay (70% of funding); 2) Rangeland – Pasture – Grazed Forest (15%); 3) Irrigated Pasture (10%); 4) Dry Cropland (5%). Priority for reallocation of funds; 1) Irrigated Cropland – Hay, 2) Rangeland – Pasture – Grazed Forest, 3) Irrigated Pasture, 4) Dry Cropland.
8. **EQIP Local Ranking:** Broke into small groups with a shared interest in the category. Objective was to develop a list of desired qualities that should make an application rank higher within the assigned category. Listed on 2020 Local Work Group Recommendations Sheet.
9. **Other Local Project Ideas:** Discussed potential project ideas. These were not limited to NRCS farm bill funding. Looked at different avenues for funding projects.
10. **Next Steps, Closing Comments & Adjourn:** It was determined unanimously that another meeting was needed. Possibly in June or July of 2020. David will send an email to the attendees with proposed dates and times. Try to invite someone from each area to the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Brian Kossman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm.