

**WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES -December 10, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

Place: NRCS Field Office Burley, Idaho
Date: December 10, 2024
Time: 11:00 AM
Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present
Richard Kunau – Chairman
Jordan Searle- Vice-Chairman
Ken Black- Treasurer
Chad Searle- Member
Scott Yost- Member

Employees, Guests, and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout, Admin
David Mabey, NRCS
Carolyn Firth, ISWCC
Ellie Burken, Pheasants Forever

Supervisors Not Present

- I. Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Richard Kunau at 11:10 AM
- II. Changes to Agenda:** No changes
- III. Minutes for previous meeting:** November 2024 Minutes – Chad Searle moved to approve the November 2024 minutes with the correction of name on the minutes motion to: **Jordan Searle seconded the motion.** Jordan Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** Ken Black made the motion to approve the November 2024 Treasurers' Report. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
 - 1. Next Board Meeting:** January 14, 2025: NRCS Field Office at 11:00 AM
 - 2. Legislative Luncheon:** December 18, 2024: Minidoka hosting
 - 3. Soil Moisture & Pesticide Workshop:** January 16, 2025: Registration at 8:00 AM
 - 4. Legislative Social & Display Day:** January 20, 2025: Boise, Idaho
- VI. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS**
 - 1. Cotterell Boat Station:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the station's last work day for the season was November 29, 2024. There will be a Cooperator Meeting January 21, 2025 at 9:00 am in Boise, Idaho. Rachelle requested to purchase \$75 gift cards to send with a card to each of the employees. Jordan Searle made the motion to approve the purchase of \$75 gift cards for each of the (9) employees. Ken Black seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - 2. ISWCC:** Carolyn Firth shared Delwyne Trefz update from the Commission. The next board meeting will be December 12, 2024. Administrative staff are preparing for 2025 Legislative Session. They are working on annual reports, scheduling confirmation hearings for Karen Sharpnack and Erik Olson. The Governor recently reappointed them to a new 5-year terms on the board. CREP staff have wrapped up another year and have produced new promotional materials. Loretta has been working on creating WQPA project fact sheets. These are very useful for sharing with legislators who may be interested in what the program has accomplished in their district.
 - 3. NRCS:** David Mabey informed the board that the new Pheasants Forever employee, Ellie Burken, has been doing a wonderful job. They have been working on getting more projects lined up. These particular projects will be funded along with NRCS funds. The NRCS new admin assistant will start Monday, December 16, 2024, her name is Heather Grace. They posted a planner position and had one application; the individual had accepted a different job. The NRSC is working on getting the position reposted. David informed the board the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) money may be repealed. The NRCS staff have been busy working on applications. There is a possible pipe project East of Declo, Idaho. The partners would be Burley Irrigation District and Basin Wide Water. The purpose of this project would be to have access to surface water.

4. **Pheasants Forever:** Ellie Burken shared information about partnership projects they have been working on with BLM and Forest Service. Ellie asked the board for suggestions of private landowners to contact with possible Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) or Big Game Initiative (BGI) projects. She has been busy working on agreements and budgets for the upcoming year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Performance Report:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the FY 2024 Performance Report with the board members. The board reviewed the report and had 2 changes they would like made. Rachelle will add "Eastern Plain Aquifer" to the Water Resource section and remove the funds from the Kathy Poulton Scholarship. Chad Searle made the motion to accept the performance report with the above changes made. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
2. **Other: Prospective Board Member-** West Cassia SWCD welcome Scott Yost to their board meeting. Scott is a dairy farmer South of Burley. The board visited with Scott about joining West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District. Jordan Searle made the motion to appoint Scott Yost to the West Cassia SWCD board. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Adjourn: Ken Black made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 12:45 PM. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout.