

**EAST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES – October 2021 BOARD MEETING
Masonic Lodge Burley
October 5, 2021**

Place: Masonic Lodge
Date: October 5, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Presiding: Mark Webb

Supervisors Present

Mark Webb – Chairman
Steve Ward- Vice Chairman
Hannah Sanders- Member

Employees and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout, Administrative Assistant
David Mabey- NRCS
Carolyn Firth- ISWCC

Supervisors Not Present:
Ken Woodworth- Treasurer
Rob Cottle- Member

ACTION ITEMS

- I. **Meeting called to Order by:** Mark Webb Called meeting to order at 1:09pm
- II. **Changes to Agenda:** Add Poster Awards- Cash
- III. **Minutes for previous meeting – July 2021 Minutes –** Steve Ward moved to approve Minutes of previous meeting. Hannah Sanders seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report- July 2021-** Steve Ward read treasurer’s report for August and September. Hannah Sanders moved to approve Treasurer’s Report. Steve Ward seconded. Motion Carried.

ACTION ITEMS

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **TA Grant Update-** Rachelle created a budget report for the TA 2020 Grant information. From the information I found the only cost to the district is the money they agreed to put toward the grant.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS

1. **NRCS Update-** David report Trec Reed has been hired and started at the Rupert office on September 13, 2021. The NRCS is looking to have the Burley vacant position filled by the end of the year. Covid update: our Field Office is still operating at 50% (Rupert 2 and Burley 3). Districts can hold meetings after hours. They just cannot exceed the 50% occupancy. District personnel are allowed in the office. They are subject to the 50% staffing rule. LWG meeting will be November 9th from 9am to Noon at the Rupert office (McGregor Building). David has directed several people to the Districts who have unique projects. Most of them have been ditch and canal to pipeline conversions. Curtis would like to thank all SWCD’s for their cooperation and would like to express his support and acknowledgement of the difficulties and inconveniences that COVID has caused. He would still like the MOA’s signed and would like to hear from districts that have concerns with the MOA. FSA approached David with concerns about customer privacy. He has also received concerns from customers over the past year about potential leaks of private information. As a federal agency, the NRCS and partners must safeguard our customers information. NRCS is allowed to help setup for the Soil Judging Contest but cannot attend or help with the soil judging. Dinah is available to help. Trec and Melanie have employee trainings. Carolyn is available to help with the contest.
2. **ISWCC Update-** Loretta Strickland is our new Deputy Assistant. For the past 10 years Loretta has work for the Commission as a WQRC serving the Adams, Gem, Payette, Squaw Creek and

Valley SWCD from her office in Emmett. At the September 16 meeting, Commissioners approved District match amounts recommended by SWC staff and the DAWG. East Cassia will be receiving \$8037.30. ISWCC has submitted their budget request to the state for FY 2023. The state limited agency total general fund requests to no more than a 3.1% increase over the funding approved for FY2022. In their budget they requested \$74,300 for Districts which, along with the lessor increases in the other expense categories, brought the total increase to just under the 3.1% cap. Jerry Trebesch, who served as an SWCC Commissioner from 2011 to June 2021 passed away in September after a three year battle with cancer. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could potentially become available to fund conservation work. The SWCD may be able to fund projects focused on water conservation or Ag BMPs.

3. **TA 2020-** Melanie was unable to attend do to online training. This is the message she sent: She wrapped up the CRP status reviews for FSA. She also has been assisting on the paperwork for the new CRP sign ups. She has attended a few online trainings and has been on a couple of field days. She helped Carolyn finish up the soil health project by digging up the underwear. She is also getting things lined out for the new high tunnel application. She visited the site. That eqip application deadline is November 5th. She is all finished with jury duty.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Admin Report:

- a. **Poster Awards-** Rachelle Osterhout presented the amount for the cash prizes for the poster contest awards. The amount is \$110, 2- \$20's, 4- \$10's, 2- \$5's and 20- \$1. Steve Ward moved to approve the cash prize amount and Hannah Sanders seconded

2. Calendar of Events

- a. **Next Board meeting Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday November 2, 2021 1:00 PM- Masonic Lodge Burley, ID
- b. **LSEE Contest:** Thursday October 14, 2021 **(Who is available to help? Set up Wednesday, Contest Thursday)**
- c. **Speech Contest:** October 19, 2021 Minidoka County **(Would anyone like to judge?)**
- d. **Division IV Fall Meeting:** October 21, 2021 Location: Shoshone Community Center- Registration 1:30 pm Start 2:00 pm **(Div IV is looking for a new Treasurer, are any supervisors interested?)**
- e. **RC&D Meeting-** October 29, 2021 @11AM
- f. **IASCD Conference:** November 9th- 12th Location: The Riverside Hotel, Boise Idaho
- g. **LWG Meeting:** November 15, 2021: 9:00 am to Noon Location: McGregor Building, Rupert Idaho

3. Supervisor's Report:

- a. **Registration-** The board discussed the dates for the IASCD Conference. They also commented how busy this time of year with different meetings.
- b. **Resolution for State Conference-** The board discussed reviewing the resolutions in the email and are aware of what will be voted on at conference.
- c. **IASCD Door Prizes-** Rachelle presented the flier with the door prize information.
- d. **IDEA Raffle Tickets-** Rachelle presented the flier with the raffle information.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2.24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout