

**WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES -August 12, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

Place: NRCS Field Office Burley, Idaho
Date: August 12, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM
Presiding: Richard Kunau

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

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

Supervisors Not Present
Ken Black- Treasurer

- I. Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Richard Kunau at 11:28 AM
- II. Changes to Agenda:** Add Ellie Hofer Pheasants Forever to Agency Reports/ Requests
- III. Minutes for previous meeting:** November 2024 Minutes – Jordan Searle moved to approve the June 2025 minutes. Chad Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the beginning and ending balances of the June 2025 & July 2025 Treasurers Report. Chad Searle made the motion to approve the June 2025 & July 2025 Treasurers' Report. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
 - 1. Next Board Meeting:** September 9, 2025: NRCS Field Office at 11:00 AM
(September meeting over October meeting)
 - 2. Cassia County Fair:** August 9-16, 2025
 - 3. Financial & Match Report Due:** August 16, 2025
 - 4. Community Conservation Class:** September 9, 2025- CSI in Burley, 7 to 8:30 PM
 - 5. Mid-Snake RC&D Meeting:** September 19, 2025- Twin Falls, ID
 - 6. LSEE Setup:** October 7, 2025- Richard Kunau will bring trailer & generator
 - 7. LSEE Contest:** October 8, 2025- Contest site TBD
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Financial & Match Report Review-** The West Cassia Board reviewed the *Financial & Match Report*. Jordan Searle made the motion to approve the Financial & Match Report for FY25. Scott Yost seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - 2. West Cassia Logo & Business Card Approval:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the logos and business card samples with the West Cassia Board. After reviewing the samples West Cassia SWCD would like a map of Idaho with an outline identifying the District boundaries added to the light-colored business card. The West Cassia SWCD Board voted on the light-colored card with the changes. The vote unanimously passed.
 - 3. Display at Cassia County Fair:** The Districts' display has been setup in the Art/ Flower building at The Cassia County Fair. Rachelle Osterhout expressed concern that we are not reaching our intended audience where we are located at the fair. She asked for suggestions to help connect with growers, farmers, ranchers and, dairy farmers.
 - 4. Other:**
 - **Purchase of 4-H/ FFA animal at The Cassia County Fair:** Ken Black will be attending the animal sale at the Cassia County Fair. Chad Searle made the motion for Ken Black to purchase livestock 4-H animal or animals at the Cassia County Fair on behalf of West Cassia SWCD. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

VII. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS

1. **Cotterell Boat Station:** Rachele Osterhout updated the board on the ongoing efforts of ISDA monitoring the Snake River for Quagga. PERSI has been setup and it came out of the Cotterell Inspectors paychecks on the August 7th payroll. There was discussion about requesting ISP for all the shifts for the 2026 season.
2. **NRCS Update:** Heather Grace share the NRCS update. The EQIP program finished \$700,000. FY26 funding will be announced possibly in October. There were 3 CRP sign ups and 8 CSP sign ups. There was also and emergency CRP grazing opened. The hiring freeze was extended until October 2026. The NRCS staff thanked the District for participating in the Local Work Group meeting.
3. **ISWCC Update:** Carolyn Firth reported to the District the Financial & Match Report is due August 16, 2026. There are district audit changes: A District whose annual expenditures exceed \$200,000 but do not exceed \$300,000 in the current year may elect to have it's financial statements audited on a biennial rather than annual basis. The first year that expenditures exceed \$200,000 is the first year of the biennial audit period. A Conservation District whose annual expenditures exceed \$300,000 must have a full and complete audit of its financial statements made each fiscal year. Carolyn also shared a Q&A sheet from the Commission about the possible merger with IDWR. West Cassia had a WQPA project approved.
4. **Pheasants Forever Update:** Ellie Hofer shared upcoming projects. There is a lop and scatter project in Minidoka County. Aerial spraying in Oakley, Fairfield and Bellevue area, they will be using helicopters. Mastication projects in Elba and south of Oakley. Pheasants Forever are going for individuals interested in Sage Grouse Incitive projects.

Adjourn: Adjourn at 12:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Rachele Osterhout.