

# LWG--- Local work Group

14 November 2023

Minidoka McGregor Building

*(Draft)* Minutes

## Those In Attendance:

Kurt Heward – East Cassia SWCD

Hannah Sanders – East Cassia SWCD

Steve Ward – East Cassia SWCD

Lance Lovell – Minidoka SWCD

Jeff Schow – Minidoka SWCD

Luke Stevenson – Minidoka SWCD

Dusty Wilkins – Minidoka SWCD

Richard Kunau – West Cassia SWCD

Chad Searle – West Cassia SWCD

Jordan Searle – West Cassia SWCD

Sierra Robatchek – Idaho F&G

Brandon Tycz – Idaho F&G

Tanya Hibler – Idaho Dairywomen

Brooke Morgan – Pheasants Forever

Scott Solett – Forest Service

Calvin Cotton – Whitesides Dairy

Richard Garner – Whitesides Dairy

David Mabey – NRCS

Dinah Reaney – NRCS

Carolyn Firth – ISWCC

Sharon Hardy – SWCD admin

Doreen McMurray – SWCD admin

Meeting called to order by Co-Vice-Chairman Dusty Wilkins at 10:00 am, with a welcome and introductions. He then opened elections and nominations for Chairman and co-Vice-Chairmen. Lance Lovell nominated Dusty Wilkins as Chairman and Richard Kunau and Rob Cottle as Co-Vice Chairmen. Luke Stevenson seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. Motion carried. It was announced that everyone in attendance can have a voice in discussions, but each organization represented at the meeting gets only one vote. The time was then turned over to David Mabey who served as facilitator.

David gave a presentation on the purpose and the responsibilities of the LWG. This LWG committee decides how funding is used within the 2 counties. Cassia and Minidoka County funding will be awarded to projects based upon findings of this committee. Most of the focus will be to the EQIP program (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) funds by determining which projects will be funded. FY ending September 2023 had \_\_\_\_\_ contracts using \$\_\_\_\_\_. The Inflation Reduction Act (used for climate change projects), CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), SGI (Sage Grouse Initiative), and ACT Now programs were also discussed.

2023 priorities/concerns were:

#1 Water Quantity – Source water depletion.

#2 Water Quality – Nutrients transported to groundwater and/or surface water.

#3 Soil Quality Limitation – Soil organism habitat loss or degradation and/or aggregate instability.

#4 Soil Erosion – wind, sheet & rill erosion.

#5 Habitat – Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates.

#6 Degraded plant Conditions – plant productivity & health/Structure and composition.

#7 Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate livestock water.

**Applications are accepted and assigned points based upon the Local Work Group committee's priorities for this year. Projects that meet the highest points get funded. The Group identified top concerns and ranked them in the following order for 2024 funding:**

**#1 Water Quality**

**#2 Water Quantity**

**#3 Soil Health**

**#4 Erosion**

**#5 High Tunnels**

**#6 Habitat**

Committee took a break for lunch provided by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Discussion continued on deciding the percentage of money to be used in each category.

Ranking categories for 2024 (categories and percentages of funding) will fall under 2 categories: EQIP and IRA. The following percentages for funding were decided:

<u>EQIP \$439K</u>		<u>IRA \$438K</u>	
85%	Water Quantity	50%	Water Quality
10%	High Tunnels	50%	Soil Health / Erosion
5%	Habitat		

All overage of funds in either category will go to the top ranked concern of Water Quality.

Meeting adjourned 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Sharon Hardy - Minidoka SWCD Admin  
Doreen McMurray – East Cassia SWCD & West Cassia SWCD Admin