

**WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
DRAFT MINUTES –May 9, 2023 BOARD MEETING**

**Place:** 4H Meeting Room Cassia County Courthouse  
**Date:** May 9, 2023  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Presiding:** Richard Kunau

**Supervisors Present:**  
Richard Kunau- Chairman  
Ken Black- Vice Chairman  
Kathy Poulton- Treasurer  
Jordan Searle- Member

**Employees and Agency Representatives:**  
Rachelle Osterhout, Admin  
David Mabey, NRCS  
Carolyn Firth, ISWCC  
Chad Searle- Visitor

**Supervisors Not Present:**  
Brent Stoker- Member  
Kyle Bowers- Associate Member

**ACTION ITEMS**

- I. **Meeting called to Order by:** Richard Kunau at 11:06 AM
- II. **Changes to Agenda:** No Changes
- III. **Minutes for previous meeting:** January 2023 Minutes – Ken Black moved to approve Minutes of February 2023 meeting. Jordan Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report:** Rachelle Osterhout presented the transaction detail for February, March & April 2023. Kathy Poulton moved to approve Treasurer’s Report. Ken Black seconded. Motion Carried.
- V. **Calendar of Events:**
  1. **Summer Award Banquet:** June 8, 2023 6:3- PM Burley Straw Maze
  2. **Next Board Meeting:** June 8, 2023- Before Banquet

**Agency Reports/ Requests**

1. **ISWCC Update:** Carolyn Firth share a message from Delwyne Trefz. All Division spring meetings are finished. 2023 Envirothon was held in Challis Idaho, it was a success. WQPA Fiscal Year 2024 proposals are due May 31, 2023. The current 2023 WQPA invoices are due June 1, 2023. Carolyn has been working with Craig Searle to get his invoices turned in. The Commission has been interviewing for a water quality conservationist in North Idaho. Match funding will need to be deposited by June 30<sup>th</sup> to receive funds from Commission.  
Carolyn Firth shared there is a possible WQPA project with Cordell Searle dairy on a water savings project. She will be meeting with Cordell on Thursday. Carolyn asked West Cassia if they would be willing to sponsor the project. Ken Black made a motion to sponsor this proposal. Jordan Searle seconded the motion.
2. **NRCS Update:** David Mabey is updating the board about the Local Work Group. He would still like to meet with the committee members to discuss the questions and applications. David would like to start planning for the LWG meeting this fall (2023 for 2024 season) and would like to get a date on the calendar. He also asked if they would like a facilitator again. The board commented they felt like David done a great job facilitating the last meeting. Burley and Rupert NRCS received \$30,000.00 in more funding and were able to fund an additional contract. They funded 4 contracts total. There were no high-tunnels funded this year. There is a possibility to receive more funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. They are also anticipating one more round of signups for CSP. The NRCS has announced 17 job openings in the state (one of those in the Burley office and one in the Rupert office).
3. **Cotterell Boat Station:** Rachelle Osterhout shared Betty Carlson’s update for the Cotterell Boat Station. Betty said everything is running smoothly. ISP has been doing their part and they are still waiting on Cassia County to cover some day shifts. Last week alone they had 33 watercraft by pass the station that were not returned. Betty also commented she has super good employees returning this year. ITD/KnifeRiver have be very accommodating, the weigh station has been demolished and are working on the ground work to get ready for paving. ITD is trenching in a water line and will be installing a hydrant. They will also have an electrical line and switch that will run the open/ closed sign on the freeway. They will also be changing the signage. The exit of the freeway will be broke into 3 lanes: Semi/RV, Watercraft

and Cars. The truck and RV parking will be to the north end of the watercraft building to the end of the parking lot. In front of the watercraft station to the south end will be marked no parking. They are also painting 2 lanes for watercraft to pull into when they are busy and hot washing. Madi Patterson is very knowledgeable and does her job extremely well. All employees have loved having direct deposit. Jordan Searle will check with the Cassia County Sheriffs Department about patrolling the boat station.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Cotterell Boat Station Employee Handbook Email Vote to Accept Handbook dated 2/27/2023**  
Brent Stoker, Yes. Ken Black, Yes. Kathy Poulton, Yes. Richard Kunau, Yes. Jordan Searle, Yes.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **College Scholarships:** Rachelle Osterhout emailed 4 college scholarship applications for the board to review. She also provided paper copies at the meeting for the board to review. Ken Black made a motion to increase the college scholarship amount to \$2,000.00 on the West Cassia 2023 budget. Kathy Poulton seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Jordan Searle made a motion to award four scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each to the following 2023 graduating seniors: Kelcee Burton of Declo High School, Sadie Williams of Oakley High School, Cooper Bean of Burley High School, and Falon Bedke of Oakley High School. Ken Black seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
2. **Mid-Snake RC&D Membership Dues:** Rachelle Osterhout presented the Mid-Snake RC&D Membership dues sheet. The board would like to continue to be a member. Rachelle will send the payment per the approved amount in the budget. The amount is \$50.00.
3. **Summer Awards Banquet:** West Cassia has a discussion about who they would like to honor at the banquet. David Mabey commented he attended the State FFA Convention and there were a number of students from our area that received their FFA Degrees. Rachelle Osterhout shared six students attended Know Your Government this year. West Cassia SWCD would like to invite the students that received their State FFA Degrees and the six students that attend KYG this year to attend the awards banquet.
4. **Amendment to the 2023 Budget for Current Amounts:** Rachelle Osterhout shared information from the Local Government Registry webinar about the new reporting guidelines. It is required that if they have been any changes to the budget that the board needed to review and approve the changes at a meeting. The board reviewed the current budget. Ken Black made a motion to accept the current 2023 West Cassia Budget changes. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
5. **Direct Seed Project Information:** The board discussed the direct seed project and the possibility of purchasing a vertical tillage tool.

**Adjourn:** Kathy Poulton made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Jordan Searle seconded. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout