

PROJECT Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 @ 2:00 pm

By Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Project Committee Chairman Richard Kunau at 2:03 PM.

In Attendance by ZOOM:

Committee Members: *Richard Kunau,
Luke Stevenson,
Hannah Sanders,
Jordan Searle, and
Dusty Wilkins.*

Admin: *Sharon Hardy
Rachelle Osterhout
Doreen McMurray*

Absent: *Ken Woodworth*

1. **Minutes** from the Previous Meeting dated June 13, 2024 were sent via email to the committee. Hannah Sanders motioned to accept the minutes as written. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. The current balance in the Project Committee account is \$93,717.70. Admin expect to receive an additional \$5-6,000 to still come in from drill rentals. Dusty Wilkins motioned to accept the financial report. Luke Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Drill Update.** Sharon & Rachelle both listed some of the issues their drills are currently having. Richard discussed taking the drills to Jeff for repairs after Thanksgiving. The Committee wants to keep repairing the drills as needed and continue renting them as long as repairs do not become too costly.
4. **Project fund distribution** was discussed with some possible distribution ideas to include:
 - a. a flat distribution to each district,
 - b. plan a workshop to use \$10-15,000, or
 - c. to raise the admin wage reimbursement amount.

The committee agreed on the second and third idea. Dusty Wilkins motioned to raise the Admin Reimbursement amount to \$40 per hour starting January 1st, 2024. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dusty Wilkins motioned to plan a Moisture Monitoring & Pesticide Workshop to include food and a larger "farmer" audience. spending approximately \$10-15,000. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **2024 Community Conservation Classes** that were held included:
 - Class #1 Pollinators (Bees & Beetles) (June 18, 2024)
 - Class #2 Summer Gardening Issues (August 6, 2024)
 - Class #3 Preparing for Winter (Pollinator hibernation, preparing seed beds, flower bulbs, harvesting and storing seeds, and pumpkin ideas.) (October 15, 2024)

The class attendance seems to be growing with each class, gaining in urban gardeners. We want to do more in the future to appeal to the rural farmer.

6. **2025 Community Conservation Classes** planned include 1 workshop and 3 classes.

WORKSHOP January 16, 2025 Soil Moisture & Pesticide Workshop

(daytime workshop w/ Lunch)

Topics: Moisture Monitor Project Update & Training, Water Issues, Pheasants Forever, Voles, Pesticide Credits, and Drone Pesticide Spraying.

Committee discussed utilizing local speakers as much as possible. Some suggestions for workshop speakers include Marco Hernandez for drone spraying, Brian Olmstead on Water Issues, Ask Jason Thomas for the man's name from California to speak on Voles, and check w/ Sharon on a contact at Fort Hall to speak on Voles. After lunch will be a session on Moisture Monitors to include the project overview, general moisture monitor information, along with specific training and help for Moisture Monitor Project cooperators. Committee wants to charge \$10 for 3 pesticide credits. It will be pay at the door with cash or check.

Class #1 **February 25th** Trees for Yards & Windbreaks (evening class @ Minidoka Fairgrounds)

Topics: -Windbreaks (How? Why? Where)

-Landscaping with Trees & Shrubs

-Dormant Pruning & Tree Care/ Watering / Spraying

-Class “take-away” a free bundle of seedlings

This class will kick off our annual seedling tree sale.

Class #2 **May 20, 2025** Design Your Yard for All Seasons (evening class)

Class #3 **August 26, 2025** Water-Wise / Fire-Wise / & Drought Resistant (evening class)

7. **Admin Wage reimbursements** to the districts will be: (See the motion in item #3 above.)

Minidoka Admin 167.5 hours x \$40 = \$6,700

Cassia Admin 193.9 hours x \$40 = \$7,756

East Cassia SWCD ½ = \$3,878

West Cassia SWCD ½ = \$3,878

8. **Moisture Monitoring Issues**

Supervisors discussed issues they were having with their moisture monitors. They would like training and help during the workshop (after lunch) to address these issues with SoilTech.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Doreen McMurray and Sharon Hardy.