

MINI-CASSIA DIRECT SEED & COVER CROP PROJECT

COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: March 2, 2023 @ 12:58 pm

Location: McGregor Building
85 East Baseline, Rupert, ID

Committee Members in Attendance: Richard Kunau (Chairman)
Mark Webb
Dusty Wilkins

Admin in Attendance: Sharon Hardy (Minidoka Admin)
Rachelle Osterhout (Cassia Admin)
Doreen McMurray (Cassia I&E Specialist)

- I. **Called to order** at 12:58 PM by Committee Chairman Richard Kunau.
- II. **Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the Previous Meeting (July 12, 2022) by Dusty Wilkins and seconded by Mark Webb. Motion carried.
- III. **Budget** update was reviewed and discussed. Several additions to the FY23 expenses were updated. Dusty Wilkins motioned to approve the budget with the updates. Mark Webb seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. **Committee Membership** and **Bank Signers** reviewed. Dusty Wilkins motioned to remove Brian Kossman from the committee and also as a bank signer and then add Minidoka SWCD board member Luke Stevenson as both a Direct Seed Committee member and a bank signer. Mark Webb seconded. Motion passed. Sharon will make arrangements with the bank.
- V. Mark Webb motioned to pay the following bills:
 - Admin hours for the first half of FY2023 (Minidoka \$1,151.50, East Cassia \$684.25, West Cassia \$684.25)
 - Extra Admin help at the workshop to West Cassia for Betty Carlson (\$140)
 - Newsletter printing & postage costs for December and March newsletters
 - Local Work Group reimbursement to Minidoka SWCD (\$233.79)
 - Direct Seed Meeting & Summer Awards Banquet room rental (June 2023)Dusty Wilkins seconded. Motion carried.
- VI. **Drill repairs** were discussed. Ag-Vantage completed repairs on both drills. Jeff Jarolimek said that the drills should be good for another 3-5 years without major repairs. Ag-Vantage was paid for the current repairs – Cassia drill \$4,969.36 and Minidoka drill \$6,852.07. Drills are ready to go for another season.
- VII. **Drill Rental CONTRACT** – needs to be updated to include: All ground must have been previously farmed (no sage brush areas).
- VIII. **Workshop** – The 8th Soil Health Workshop was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The theme of the workshop was “Managing Water for Tomorrow’s Agriculture”. Approximately 137 people attended. The location at the Burley Event Center was very good and cost was more reasonable. Jason Strunk did the AV tech and did a great job.
- IX. **Supplies to Order:** Mark Webb made a motion to purchase needed supplies including printer ink, paper, postage stamps, and other needed supplies. Dusty Wilkins seconded. Motion carried.
- X. Drill rental rates will remain the same as last year. \$75 a day and \$15 per acre.
- XI. There will be **no workshop** held in 2024 but Committee would like to consider holding a **Soil Health Forum** at the end of January or first part of February 2024. The forum would include a speaker and group panel or discussion time, equipment display or demo, a food truck, etc. Much less formal than the workshop. Admin will talk to Steve Schuyler to coordinate and get ideas.
- XII. **Social Media** – Committee discussed putting a survey on social media and on the website and in the newsletter to see what equipment might be useful to landowners. Dusty Wilkins made the motion to sponsor both districts’ FaceBook pages to increase viewing in the Division IV area of Southern Idaho with a total of \$200 budget. Mark Webb seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- XIII. **Drill discussion** on selling one of the drills and purchasing a larger one, or a smaller one. Discussed obtaining a grant or a partnership with a dealer to obtain a karat drill or a chisel ripper (all-in-one pass). If obtained, host an open house or a demo day to show new equipment. (resources: Climate Smart, Lemkin, other grant ideas,...) All 3 admin will research possibilities and grant or partnership ideas.
- XIV. **Survey** – Seek landowner input and responses on the idea of renting minimal tillage equipment.
- XV. Next meeting will be held before the Summer Awards Banquet in June 2023.
- XVI. Adjourn: Mark Webb motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Doreen McMurray (East & West Cassia I & E Specialist), Sharon Hardy (Minidoka Admin), and Rachelle Osterhout (East & West Cassia Admin).