

EAST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
East Cassia Board Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES – January 2, 2024 BOARD MEETING

Place: Burley Field Office
Date: January 2, 2024
Time: 1:00 PM
East Cassia Presiding: Rob Cottle

East Cassia Supervisors Present
Rob Cottle – Chairman
Steve Ward- Vice Chairman
Hannah Sanders- Member
Kurt Heward- Member

Employee and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin
Doreen McMurray- I&E Specialist
David Mabey- NRCS

Not Present:
Ken Woodworth- Treasurer
Mark Webb- Associate Member

ACTION ITEMS

- I. East Cassia Board Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Rob Cottle at 1:12 pm.
- II. Changes to agenda:** Add agency reports
- III. Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Hannah Sanders moved to approve the minutes for the December 2023 meeting. Steve Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report:** Kurt Heward made the motion to accept the December 2023 Treasurer’s Report. Steve Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
 - 1. Legislative Social:** January 15, 2024 Boise, Idaho
 - 2. Town Hall Meeting:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 Rupert, Idaho
 - 3. Next Board Meeting:** February 6, 2024
 - 4. Request for Funding Cassia County Commissioner’s:** February 26, 2024 10:00 am

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

- 1. NRCS:** David Mabey updated the board they are in the middle of contract season. The Team 12 EQIP allocation is \$438,000.00. This money goes towards the LWG decisions with the priority focusing on Water Quantity. There is a possibility of more funding later in the year. Team 12 also received funding from the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) in the amount of \$438,000.00. The IRA money will prioritize projects that focus on Water Quality any money left over will go to water quality projects. There will be 2 ways to access this money:
 - Fill out an application and work through the standard process
 - ACT NOW (Fast tract)- will allow any application to rush through the selection process. Applications have to meet certain practices to hit the fast track. An example is green energy practices. The NRCS will be starting to work on applications for IRA.

David has filled the position for Soil Conservationist in the Burley office. John Erickson will start February 20, 2024. He is looking to hire a Resource Conservationist in the Burley office, a Soil Conservationist in the Rupert office and an Administrative Assistant that will work out of the Burley office.

David is organizing a Town Hall Meeting on January 30, 2024 in Rupert Idaho. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about the programs and funding opportunities that are available. The NRCS and FSA will each have a short presentation. He is planning on providing refreshments or lunch. David has asked the districts to help with advertising. The districts will also set up their presentation boards and have information on the moisture monitoring project and sign-up sheets available.

- 2. ISWCC:** Carolyn Firth was unable to attend the meeting. She wanted to remind the board about the Legislative Social in Boise on January 15 and to talk about the WQPA program and how valuable it is to our state and area.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Participants for Moisture Monitoring Project:** Doreen McMurray and Rachelle Osterhout discussed the details of the Moisture Monitoring Project. 4 growers are needed to participate in East Cassia. Kurt Heward has agreed to be one of the cooperators. Supervisors will seek growers who may be interested in

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participating. There was a discussion about the grower contract. They would like to add a lease to own option and add information about lost or damaged monitors. Admin will adjust the project description and grower contract to reflect these changes.

2. **LSO Registry Compliant for 2023 Registry Year:** Rachelle Osterhout shared with the board that she received confirmation that East Cassia is compliant for 2023 registry year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pivot Track Filler:** East Cassia SWCD discussed the price quotes for the pivot track filler and trailer. The Ag-Vantage quote is \$5,097.00 (without tax). Rob Cottle shared the advantages of having a trailer custom made from Big Bubba Trailers in Ogden Utah. The cost of the trailer will be under \$1,945.00. The board discussed if it doesn't rent turning around and selling in in 2 years. Rachelle will contact ICRMP for insurance. The board would like Rachelle Osterhout and Doreen McMurray to create a rental contract and in it include the renter being liable for the equipment while in the renters' possession. They will rent it for a daily fee.

Steve made a motion to purchase the Ag-Vantage Pivot Track Filler, Big Bubba Trailer, Registration & Ball lock. The cap on the purchase will be \$7,500.00. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried. East Cassia board members and office staff will work on finding a location to store the equipment.

2. **DL Evans CD:** Hannah Sanders made the motion to withdraw \$7,500.00 from East Cassia SWCD CD at DL Evans Bank to purchase the Ag-Vantage Pivot Track Filler, Trailer and Supplies and renew the CD for 12 months. Signers on the account will be: Rob Cottle, Steve Ward, Ken Woodworth, Hannah Sander & Kurt Heward. Steve Ward seconded the motion. Motion Carried
3. **On January 30, 2024 East Cassia SWCD Ratified the Motion Associated with the Pivot Track Filler** Ken Woodworth made a motion to increase the cap on the purchase to \$8,000.00 and the amount being withdrawn from the DL Evans Bank CD to \$8,000.00. Steve Ward seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
4. **Know Your Government Donation:** Steve Ward made a motion to give the 16-year-old Garrett kid \$200.00 KYG Scholarship from East Cassia if he completes the 4-H registration requirements. If he is not eligible, the \$200.00 will be given to Cassia County 4-H to distribute among students attending from East Cassia. Kurt Heward seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
5. **Employee Review:** Rob Cottle called an Executive Session at 3:14 pm. *The Board may hold an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) (A)(B)*
Roll call: Rob Cottle, Steve Ward, Kurt Heward, Hannah Sanders
Exited Executive Session at 3:26 pm.
Roll call: Rob Cottle, Steve Ward, Kurt Heward, Hannah Sanders
Summary of discussion:
 - Doreen McMurray pay increase to \$28.00 per hour and 20 hours paid personal leave per year.
 - Rachelle Osterhout pay increase to \$22.50 per hour and 20 hours paid personal leave per year.These changes will start on the February 1, 2024 payroll.

Ratified at the January 30, 2024 East Cassia SWCD Board Meeting

Ken Woodworth made a motion for Doreen McMurray to receive a pay increase to \$28.00 per hour and 20 hours paid personal leave per year. Rachelle Osterhout to receive a pay increase to \$22.50 per hour and 20 hours paid personal leave per year. These changes will take effect on the February 1, 2024 payroll. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. **Other:**
 - **Division IV:** Rachelle Osterhout shared during the Division IV meeting that the Treasurer, Chris Johnson, resigned. During elections the motion was made for Richard Kunau to appoint an individual from the Mini-Cassia area to the Division IV Treasurer.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout.

Note: The Board may hold an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) (A)(B)