

WEST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT **MINUTES** – February 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING
4-H Classroom (Cassia County Courthouse), Burley, ID

Place: 4-H Classroom
Date: February 7, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Presiding: Jordan Searle

Supervisors Present
Jordan Searle- Vice Chairman
Kathy Poulton- Treasurer
Brent Stoker- Member

Employees and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin
Doreen McMurray- I&E Specialist
Betty Carlson- Cotterel Boat Station Manager
Carolyn Firth- ISWCC
Trek Reid- NRCS
Brooke Morgan- Pheasants Forever
Melanie Nebeker- TA 2021 Employee

Supervisors Not Present:
Richard Kunau- Chairman
Ken Black- Member

ACTION ITEMS

- I. **Called to Order by:** Jordan Searle at 10:36 AM
- II. **Changes to the Agenda:** No Changes
- III. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Kathy Poulton moved to amend the minutes from January 11, 2022 to amend Cotterel Boat Station bonuses from 25% to 33% or 1/3. It will be split evenly between Betty Carlson and Rachelle Osterhout. Brent Stoker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy Poulton moved to approve January 2022 minutes with the amendments. Brent Stoker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Poulton presented the treasurer's report. Kathy Poulton moved to approve Treasurer's Report for January 2022. Brent Stoker seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

V. Calendar of Events:

- a. **Division IV Meeting:** March 3, 2022 10:00 AM Morey's Steakhouse Event Center
West Cassia will be hosting the meeting. Doreen shared the agenda outline for the meeting. There was discussion about having a supervisor training at the meeting. It was suggested to have board members team up with a board member from East Cassia and present a topic from the supervisor's handbook.
- b. **Next Board Meeting:** April 12, 2022, 2022- Location: 4-H Classroom @ 11:00 AM

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Update- Trec Reed introduced himself. He grew up in Tremonton Utah. He has a degree in Wildlife Science. He worked for USDA Wildlife Services prior to accepting the position with the NRCS. He and his family are making their home in Paul, Idaho. Trec also introduced the new Pheasants Forever partner. Her name is Brooke Morgan. She grew up in upstate New York. She has a degree in Wildlife Management. She has lived in Rhode Island, Nebraska and all over Idaho. Brooke started working with the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Arco, Idaho before accepting the Pheasants Forever position.

Trec read the following report from David:

Good Soil Health Conference. I heard good things from people I was speaking to.

There is a CRP sign-up for FY2022. I do not have the details but FSA would be the one to talk to about that.

Maureen Pepper (NRCS Water Quality Specialist) is scheduled for a presentation on the National Water Quality Incentive program and to discuss a local watershed plan (Groundwater nitrate problems and well capping) March 10 at 1pm for Minidoka SWCD. I have let her know that the other districts are interested, and she is willing to schedule some more time. Since the deadline

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is early summer, it would be nice to have her present in March or as soon as we can.

EQIP project planning is currently underway with a ranking deadline of March 4. Ranking questions are out and our team is working on them.

We have not received notice of what the Teams EQIP allocation is yet. Number of applications are down. We anticipate being able to fund the majority of them.

ISWCC Update- Carolyn Firith provided the following update from Delwyne Trefz: Expect legislation to be introduced to change statute so that the Commission will be comprised of 7 Commissioners rather than the current 5. This will put into effect the resolution passed by the IASCD membership during their January business meeting. I expect the end result to be that we'll have one Commissioner from each of the 6 IASCD Divisions appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 names submitted by the respective Divisions, and one at-large Commissioner appointed by the Governor.

We are advertising for 2 of our 3 vacant field positions—an Natural Resource Conservationist for the north end of Div 3 (Valley, Boise, Gem, Payette, Weiser River, and Adams SWCDs), and an engineer position for SE Idaho. If you know of any qualified applicants please send them our way.

IASCD and other friends continue to work with legislators to find funding for our Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA). Fingers crossed. We can't advocate openly for it here in Boise because the Governor didn't include it in his budget recommendation but any interested District supervisor can check with IASCD to see if there's anything they can do to help.

We present our budget to JFAC Thu, Feb 3rd and are looking forward to suggestions, recommendations and any other feedback JFAC members may give us.

In preparation for our annual reports to the Senate and House Ag Affairs Committees I am working with IASCD to coordinate the scheduling so an IASCD rep can participate, i.e., share with the committees the Districts accomplishments and perspectives.

Soil health project form will be available February 23rd.

TA 2021- Melanie Nebeker updated the board that she has been busy with trainings. As weather improves she will have more field trainings. Melanie has been working on 3 high tunnels, helping David with sprinkler to pivot conversion, EQIP information, filing and mailing letters. Once the weather changes they will start focusing on field visits. Due to Covid restrictions the office staff are tele-working 1 day per week from home. Rachelle Osterhout and Melanie Nebeker submitted the 4th quarter TA 2020 report and will be working on closing out the grant. Soil your undies starts in June. Kathy Poulton asked what Melanie does to help the districts for 20% of her time. Melanie helps with the land judging event, seedling sale, soil your undies and meetings. It was also brought up that Minidoka SWCD would like help with decommissioning wells in Minidoka County.

Cotterel Boat Station- Betty Carlson updated the board that the 2022 inspection season may open at the beginning of March. West Cassia received the Base Pay Rates for 2022: Inspectors- \$15.00 per hour, Supervisors- \$16.50 per hour and Managers- \$20.00 per hours. The board and Betty discussed wage increases for the returning Cotterel Boat Station employees. Brent Stoker made the motion for inspectors to receive up to \$15.00 per hour and supervisors up to \$16.50 per hour as per boat station managers discretion. Kathy Poulton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board discussed increasing Betty Carlson's wage as manager of the Cotterel Boat Station. Kathy Poulton made the motion to increase Betty Carlson's wage to \$20.00 per hour. Brent Stoker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brooke Morgan mentioned that she would send a website to post jobs for the boat station. It is a site where college students who are looking for these types of jobs search.

Cotterel boat station found the first and last mussel of the 2021 season.

Law enforcement returned- 316

From infested waters- 480

Hot washed- 245

Inspected 6064 (1 more than the 2020 season)

Noxious Weeds- 2

ACTION ITEMS

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Boat Station-** Kathy Poulton presented the finalized ledger for the 2021 inspection season. West Cassia was over paid by ISDA \$3,724.16 and will be sending it back to zero out the season. The district admin fee total was \$18,381.78.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Admin Report:

- a. **Division IV Dues:** Doreen McMurray informed the board that Chris Johnson is the Division IV secretary/ treasurer for Division IV and he will be reviewing the bank statements and books. Division IV dues is due March 3, 2022 for \$80.00. Brent Stoker made the motion to pay the dues. Kathy Poulton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Supervisor's Report:

- a. Brent Stoker shared that he has received positive feedback with the work that Doreen McMurray, Rachelle Osterhout and Betty Carlson do. He said normally when he hears positive there is normally something negative and there has not been any.
- b. Stoker brought up discussion about the market for selling equipment in the economy today. Through the discussion it was determined that East Cassia, West Cassia and Minidoka will have a meeting to discuss the drills. Is it time to sale or continue to rent them? The 3 districts will meet March 10, 2022.
- c. Doreen McMurray updated the board on the soil health workshop. Betty Carlson and Melissa McMurray helped with the setup and running the workshop. Doreen McMurray will email West Cassia board the hours, details and amounts to be paid. It was approved by direct seed to pay Betty and Melissa. Doreen asked the board to pay Betty and Melissa and direct seed would reimburse the amount. Brent Stoker made a motion to approve paying Betty Carlson and Melissa McMurray for their hours helping with the soil health workshop. Kathy Poulton seconded the motion. Motion carried

The meeting Adjourned at 12:49 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout