

WEST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Tri-District Board Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES – July 12, 2023 BOARD MEETING

Place: Minidoka 4-H Building
Date: July 12, 2023
Time: 11:00 AM
Tri-District Presiding: Richard Kunau
West Cassia Presiding: Richard Kunau
Agency Representatives:
David Mabey, NRCS
Jason Thomas, U of I

East Cassia Supervisors Present

Rob Cottle – Chairman
Ken Woodworth- Treasurer
Kurt Heward- Member
Rachelle Osterhout, Admin

Not Present:

Mark Webb- Associate Member
Steve Ward- Vice Chairman
Hannah Sanders- Member

Minidoka Supervisors Present:

Reid Bowen, Vice Chairman
Lance Lovell, Treasurer
Luke Stevenson, Member
Jeff Schow, Member
Sharon Hardy, Admin
Not Present:
Dusty Wilkins, Chairman

West Cassia Supervisors Present:

Richard Kunau, Chairman
Jordan Searle, Vice Chairman
Chad Searle, Member
Doreen McMurray, I&E Specialist
Not Present:
Ken Black, Treasurer
Brent Stoker, Member
Kyle Bowers, Associate Member

ACTION ITEMS

- I. Tri-District Board Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Richard Kunau at 11:00 AM.
- II. Changes to agenda:** No Changes
- III. WEST Cassia - Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Jordan Searle moved to approve the minutes for the June 8, 2023 meeting. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. WEST Cassia- Treasurer’s Report:** Jordan Searle made the motion to accept the June 2023 Treasurer’s Report and to pay bills. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. WEST Cassia- Financial & Match Report:** Chad Searle made the motion to accept the Financial & Match Report and Richard Kunau, Chairman, to sign the certification document. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- VI. Tri-District Project**
 - 1. Admin Fees:** Direct Seed Admin Time Sheet was presented for review. The hours reflect from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Minidoka’s total hours were 107.8 and Cassia’s were 186.2. Admin Reimbursement per hour is \$17.50. Ken Woodworth, East Cassia Supervisor and Treasurer of the Tri-District Project Committee (formerly the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project committee) made the motion to approve the admin fees: East Cassia \$1629.25, Minidoka \$1886.50 and West Cassia \$1629.25. Luke Stevenson, Minidoka Supervisor and Tri-District Project Committee member, seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - 2. Innovative Moisture Monitoring Project:** Reid Bowen shared information about a soil monitoring probe from the brand Sentek. They use 1 devise per field and it is 24 inches long with an antenna. It monitors every 4 feet in depth. The data is sent to the website. Reid said the website is very user friendly. The grower calibrates the monitor from the website. These sensors need to be removed before harvesting. The devise is \$500. The board would like to move forward with Sentek. Sharon will reach out to the company for information and possible project ideas. The board would like to start advertising this fall and start the project in February 2024. There will be 12 probes per district. Richard Kunau requested \$6,000.00 from each district to fund the Moisture Monitoring project.
WEST Cassia – Jordan Searle made the motion to contribute \$6,000.00 from West Cassia to the Tri-District Innovative Moisture Monitoring Project. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
MINIDOKA Lance Lovell made the motion to contribute \$6000.00 from Minidoka to the Tri-District Innovative Moisture Monitoring Project, Luke Stevensen 2nd the motion. Motion Carried with Minidoka District.

EAST Cassia – Ken Woodworth made the motion to contribute \$6,000.00 to the Innovative Moisture Monitoring Project. Kurt Heward seconded the motion. Motion Carried

3. **Direct Seed Drill Project:** The board is still interested in adding another implement to this project. They would like information on the AgriService Sunflower drill and John Deere drill. Admin will gather information. Doreen McMurray will cancel the equipment quotes from Magic Valley Equipment.
4. **Tri-District Supervisor Scholarship:** No scholarships from the Tri-District Project account this year. The Committee would like to review the possibility again next year.

VII. Agency Reports

1. **Soil Testing Class:** Jason Thomas and David Mabey presented a project they are working on. The project will give hands on education to farm workers how to soil test to help monitor soil moisture in crops. They asked if the districts had ideas on locations to hold the classes or groups they can reach out to. They asked for ideas on how to present this to farm owners to get classes scheduled with their workers.
2. **ISWCC – Written report provided by Carolyn Firth:**
District Allocations: We are working with the State Controller's Office (SCO) to get District base (\$8,500/District) and operations (\$6,000/District) allocations processed and distributed. The administration of all the state's financial affairs is being transitioned to a new software program which has everyone from the Governor's Office on down scrambling to get up to speed. The timing of this transition is not something the Commission has any say in and using the former system to process FY 2024 District allocations is not an option. Also be aware that SCOs may ask for additional or updated information from Districts, and if they do, please respond to their requests as quickly as possible. Please know that we are doing everything we can to get District's their money as soon as possible and thank you for your patience.
District Survey: Thank-you for submitting your annual District Survey no later than July 31st! Please submit to either Delwyne at delwyne.trefz@swc.idaho.gov or Loretta at loretta.strickland@swc.idaho.gov.
District Financial & Match Reports: Financial & Match Reports are due Aug 16th. If you need assistance contact your local Commission staff person or contact Delwyne at delwyne.trefz@swc.idaho.gov or Loretta at loretta.strickland@swc.idaho.gov.
Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA): Fantastic work, Districts. Forty-three of you submitted WQPA project proposals and during their June meeting, Commissioners approved funding at least one project per each District that submitted a proposal. In total, 49 projects were funded and all but two of them are sponsored by Districts. Please direct any questions related to WQPA to your local Commission staff person of Loretta. at loretta.strickland@swc.idaho.gov.

As we head into the second season of WQPA I need to stress that state funding for the program is on a year-to-year basis, so is not a sure thing. What this means is that every year we and our partners in IASCD, IDEA, and others must sell legislators and the Governor's Office on the value the program provides our state. Looking at the latest State revenue projections and ahead to the 2024 legislative session it appears that continued funding for WQPA is going to rely upon each of us making time to visit with our local legislators to let them know the value the program is providing in their legislative district. District Supervisors and Administrators, if WQPA is enabling you to implement good conservation practices in your District please call or meet with your legislators and let them know. Better yet, invite them to a board meeting or a conservation tour during which you can share with them your WQPA experience! And a huge THANK-YOU to each of you for helping in this effort!

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2024 Budget: WEST Cassia- Donation to Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship:** Jordan Searle made the motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
2. **Natural Resource Camp** –Clayton Seymour from West Cassia attended NRC camp. West Cassia will reimburse the student's family \$142.50 (one half of the camp tuition). This is already approved in the budget.
3. Information shared about Sagebrush Saturday, Amalgamated Sugar Workshop, and DEQ Grants that are due July 15.

Adjourn: 12:29 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doreen McMurray.

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