

**WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES –April 9, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

Place: NRCS Office, Burley, Idaho
Date: April 9, 2024
Time: 11:00 am
Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present
Richard Kunau – Chairman
Jordan Searle – Vice-Chairman
Ken Black - Treasurer
Chad Searle- Member

Employees, Guests, and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout, Admin
David Mabey, NRCS
Carolyn Firth, ISWCC
Kolter Mabey, Guest

Supervisors Not Present

- I. Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Richard Kunau at 11:09 AM
- II. Changes to Agenda:** No changes
- III. Minutes for previous meeting:** February 2024 Minutes – Jordan Searle moved to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. Chad Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report:** the board reviewed the Treasurers Report (transaction detail). Chad Searle moved to approve Treasurer’s Report as written. Jordan Searle seconded. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
1. **Next Board Meeting:** June 13, 2024 (prior to Awards Banquet)
 2. **Awards Banquet:** June 13, 2024 6:00 PM, Burley Straw Maze
 3. **Community Conservation Project: Pollinators Class-** June 18, 2024, 7 to 8:30- Cassia County Courthouse
 4. **Mid-Snake RC&D Meeting:** June 21, 2024
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
1. **Awards Banquet Update:** Rachelle updated the board about the banquet. Doreen McMurray has contacted and reserved the Burley Straw Maze event building for the banquet. Carolyn Firth confirmed Dale Darrington lives in West Cassia SWCD boundaries and provided Doreen with his contact information. The board would like to honor Brent Stoker for his years of serving on the West Cassia SWCD board.
 2. **Community Conservation Project Update:** Doreen McMurry, Sharon Hardy and Rachelle Osterhout have been planning classes for the Community Conservation Project. Rachelle shared a flyer for the first class. The theme is Pollinators and will be held June 18, 2024 at the Cassia County Courthouse. Topics that will be covered are: What are pollinators, Native plants, The life of a BEE, Keeping insects ALIVE & Create a pollinator seed mix.
 3. **Idaho Ag in the Classroom:** Rachelle updated the board on the response from Rick Waitley about materials in the Idaho Ag in the Classroom packet. She requested the materials be emailed to the district when they are available. The West Cassia Board will rediscuss payment at the June 2024 meeting.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
1. **Kolter Mabey:** Kolter Mabey attended the West Cassia Board Meeting to thank the District for purchasing his 4-H lamb at the 2023 Cassia County Fair. He provided cinnamon rolls to share with those in attendance at the meeting.
 2. **5 Year & Annual Plan:** Jordan Searle Made the motion to accept the FY 2025 5 Year & Annual Plan. Ken Black seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

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3. **IDEA Dues:** Rachelle presented the invoice and letter for IDEA Dues. Jordan Searle made the motion to pay \$160.00 to IDEA for dues and to assist with learning opportunities. Chad Searle Seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
4. **Forestry Contest Donation:** Rachelle presented the donation request for the State Forestry Contest. West Cassia SWCD agreed to pay \$50.00 donation as per the amount in the FY2024 budget.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS

1. **NRCS Update:** David Mabey shared the following update with the board. The position for an admin has been posted and closed. HR will be reviewing applicants and will only send the qualified applications. David estimates it will be 90 days before they have the position filled. The additional positions for Burley and Rupert have not been readvertised. They have preapprovals for application and are contacting them and finishing up the final steps for a contract. They have spent every dollar they were give and are awaiting on an update for the additional 1+ million they requested. John Erickson is catching on quickly and doing a great job. David is looking forward to getting him out in the field and introducing him to producers. Curtis Elke accepted a new position and Mark Olsen retired. David is waiting for the announcement for who filled the positions of State Conservationist and Area East Conservationist. David let the district know they appreciate having Rachelle back in the office.
2. **ISWCC Update:** Carolyn Firth shared Delwyne Trefz monthly update Legislative Update: Senate Bill 1270 for the FY 2025 Maintenance Appropriation for all Economic Development agencies, including our Commission. This is intended to enable them to maintain operations through FY 2025. Governor Little signed Senate 1373, appropriating additional moneys to ISWCC for FY 2025. Included in this appropriation are \$24,300 to fully fund the 3% CEC recommended by the Legislature's CEC Committee, \$1,000,000 for WQPA and \$75,400 for distribution to Conservation Districts. In accordance with statute and rule, the additional money for districts will be proportionately allocated as match for local funds and services received by each Conservation District. Importantly, the \$75,400 increase in money for Districts is ongoing, meaning these moneys will benefit the Districts not only in FY 2025 but each year thereafter. Dewlyne thanked many people for their support. The Commission Carolyn share 2 possible projects for West Cassia to sponsor through the WQPA program.
Project #1: Ditch to pipe for pivot. This project is in a high nitrate priority area. Chad Searle made the motion to sponsor the ditch to pipe project for WQPA funding. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
Project #2: Dairy separator project. This project will be saving water. It is in a source water delineation area, Marsh Creek Nitrate Priority Area and East Snake Plain aquifer (ESPA) a ground water protection area. Jordan Searle made the motion to sponsor the dairy separator project for WQPA funding. Chad Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
3. **Cotterell Inspection Station Update:** Betty Carlson was unable to attend the meeting. Rachelle shared her update:
Total daily inspections for March and April- 163, Bypassed- 39, Returned- 7, Hotwashed-3
Total night inspections for March and April- 85, Bypassed- 17, Returned- 5, Hotwashed- 6
The office chairs for the boat station office are breaking. Ken Black made the motion for Betty to purchase new chairs. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Adjourn: The Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 PM with a motion from Jordan Searle. Ken Black seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

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)