

**EAST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES – January 6, 2026 BOARD MEETING**

**Place:** NRCS Office, Burley, ID  
**Date:** January 6, 2026  
**Time:** 12:00 PM  
**East Cassia Presiding:** Rob Cottle

**East Cassia Supervisors Present**  
Rob Cottle- Chairman  
Hannah Sanders- Member  
Brogan Higley- Member

**District Employees:**  
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin  
Doreen McMurray- I&E Specialist

**Not Present:**  
Ken Woodworth- Treasurer  
Kurt Heward- Vice Chairman  
Steve Ward- Associate Member  
Mark Webb- Associate Member

**ACTION ITEMS**

- I. Called Meeting to Order:** Chairman Rob Cottle called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM
- II. Changes to agenda:** No changes
- III. Approve minutes of previous meeting:** October 2025 Minutes – Brogan Higley moved to approve Minutes of previous meeting. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** The East Cassia Board reviewed the October 2025, November 2025, and December 2025 Treasurers Report (Transaction Detail). Brogan Higley moved to approve Treasurer's Reports. Hannah Sanders seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
  - 1. Next Board Meeting:** February 3, 2026 @ 12:00 Noon
  - 2. 2026 Grower Workshop:** January 27, 2026 Burley Inn & Convention Center 8 AM
  - 3. Magic Valley Soil Health Forum:** January 8, 2026 CSI Campus, Twin Falls, ID
  - 4. Legislative Social:** January 15, 2026 Boise, ID
  - 5. Pesticide/ Weed Workshop:** February 13, 2026 Shoshone, ID

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Local Government Investment Pool:** Rachelle Osterhout shared information about the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and how it could benefit East Cassia SWCD. Hannah Sanders made the motion to move the CD funds to a checking or savings account at DL Evans Bank when the CD matures on February 7, 2026. Once the account is set up East Cassia SWCD will request to join the LGIP. Brogan Higley seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- 2. Workshop:** Doreen McMurray passed out the workshop agenda and flyer. She asked the supervisors to share the flyer with other farmers and ranchers.
- 3. Scholarship Updates:** Doreen McMurray reviewed the updated scholarship application with the board. Hannah Sanders made the motion to change the scholarship amount to read "up to \$1,000.00" and to accept the updated changes to the application. Brogan Higley seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- 4. Tree Sale:** Doreen McMurray share the 2026 Seedling Tree Sale order form with the board. She will be updating the information on the website and the order form was included in the Newsletter.
- 5. Community Conservation Class to 1 Workshop:** Doreen McMurray and Rachelle Osterhout would like to change the Community Conservation Classes to 1 workshop held in the summer. East Cassia SWCD board supports the decision.
- 6. Speech Contest:** Doreen McMurray made the suggestion to move speech contests to the individual districts to help encourage more involvement from the school districts. The board suggested rotating the contest each year between Raft River High School and Declo High School. It was also mentioned to share information about the scholarship and other activities the District promotes during the contest.

**7. Employee Review & Bonus:** Brogan Higley called an Executive Session at 2:49 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, Hannah Sanders, Brogan Higley

Exited Executive Session at 3:16 PM

Roll Call: Rob Cottle, Hannah Sanders, Brogan Higley

Hannah Sanders made the motion to leave Doreen McMurray at the same hourly rate of \$28.00 per hour, with 40 hours vacation time and a bonus of \$1,600.00 for 2026. Brogan Higley seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**8. Other:**

- Doreen shared a detail expense list for the Districts educational contests to the board.
- The Awards Banquet will be hosted by Minidoka SWCD this year. The East Cassia Board was encouraged to be thinking about anyone they would like to honor this year, a grower, educator, ect.
- East Cassia SWCD was established 70 years ago this year. Would the board like to celebrate this milestone?
- Rachele Osterhout has been with the Districts for 5 years in February 2026.
- High County RC&D cloud seeding donation request was denied.
- NACD dues request will be paid. The FY2026 budget amount is \$150.00.

**VII. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS**

- 1. NRCS:** David Mabey shared the NRCS update with the East Cassia SWCD Board. The deadline for EQIP and CSP has been extended to January 15, 2026. David is anticipating the same programs and same funding however the Inflation Reduction Act money is no longer available. NRCS is rolling out a new program, Regenerative Pilot Program. There will be \$700 million to support regenerative agriculture (\$400 million to EQIP and \$300 million to CSP).
- 2. ISWCC:** Carolyn Firth shared the Commission update with East Cassia SWCD. The 5-Year and Annual Plans are due March 31, 2026. The amounts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of match funding will be determined during the January 16, 2026 Commission Meeting. Carolyn also shared information about the CREP program.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned 3:18 PM

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachele Osterhout.*