

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

Place: NRCS Office
Date: April 2, 2024
Time: 1:00 PM
East Cassia Presiding: Rob Cottle

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

Employee and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin
David Mabey- NRCS
Carolyn Firth- ISWC

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

ACTION ITEMS

- I. Called Meeting to Order:** Chairman Rob Cottle at 1:24 PM
- II. Changes to agenda:** No changes
- III. Approve minutes of previous meeting:** March 2024 Minutes – Kurt Heward moved to approve Minutes of previous meetings. Hannah Sanders seconded. Motion Carried.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report:** Hannah Sanders shared the Transaction Detail with the board. Hannah Sanders moved to approve Treasurer’s Report. Kurt Heward seconded. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
 - 1. Next Board Meeting:** June 13, 2024- Before awards banquet
 - 2. Awards Banquet:** June 13, 2024- 6 PM, Burley Straw Maze
 - 3. Community Conservation Project-** Pollinators: June 18, 2024- 7- 8:30, Cassia County Courthouse

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Pivot Track Filler Update:** The board reviewed the sample contract from the lawyer and the contract Owyhee SWCD uses to rent a trac filler and verminator. Rachelle Osterhout will revise the Owyhee contract and send to board for review. They would like to add minimum 1 day rental and will rent it for \$250 per day. Rob Cottle will be mounting a jack on the trailer to assist with loading and unloading the trac filler. He will also be placing a piece of metal on the trailer deck where the blades sit so the wood deck of the trailer doesn’t get ruined.
- 2. Award Banquet Update:** East Cassia will not have any awards this year. For 2025 Awards Banquet they would like to honor Jason Webb and an Ag Teachers in their district.
- 3. Tree Sale Update:** Rachelle Osterhout shared the tree sale update. We ordered 3,675 seedlings, and have sold 2,005. Our total income so far is \$8,596.80. Seedling are shipping on April 22, 2024.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Community Conservation Project:** Rachelle shared the flyer for the Community Conservation Project. The first class will be June 18, 2024 at the Cassia County Courthouse in the Commissioners Chambers from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.
- 2. IDEA Dues:** Rachelle share the dues notice from IDEA. The board agreed to pay dues in the amount of \$100 as per the amount in the FY2024 budget.
- 3. Forestry Contest Donation:** Rachelle shared the donation request for the State Forestry Contest. The board agreed to pay \$50 donation as per the amount in the FY2024 budget.
- 4. Other:** East Cassia discussed trying to hold meetings every other month during the late spring through the summer months. Then during the fall, winter & early spring months holding meetings each month. The board will hold special zoom meetings as needed.

VIII. AGENCY REPORTS/ REQUESTS

- 1. NRCS Update:** John shared NRCS update. The Admin position for the NRCS has been posted. The additional positions for both Burley and Rupert have not been reposted. They have preapprovals for applications and are contacting them and finishing the final steps for a contract. They have spent every dollar they were given and are waiting to hear on the 1+ million dollars. John is doing great and catching on quickly, David is looking forward to getting him out in the field and meeting with producers. They have loved having Rachelle back in the office and

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look forward to working with her. Thank you Districts. There will be a second round of CSP signups. They have a few for the first round and should have no problem spending our county allocation. The New Area Conservationist has been selected and they are waiting for the announcement.

2. **ISWCC Update:** Carolyn Firth shared Delwyne Trefz 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. Carolyn presented a WQPA project located in Albion that is converting flood irrigation to wheel lines. East Cassia accepted sponsoring the project.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned 2:34 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachelle Osterhout.