

WEST CASSIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2020

Masonic Lodge Burley
August 11, 2020 at 11:00 am

Place: Masonic Lodge Burley

Date: June 16, 2020

Time: 11:00 am

Presiding: Richard Kunau - Chairman

Supervisors Present:

Richard Kunau - Chairman

Kathy Poulton – Treasurer

Brent Stoker – Member

Employees and Agency Representatives:

LaRae Warren, *Admin Asst.*

David Mabey, NRCS

Carolyn Firth, ISWCC

Melanie Nebeker, TA

Betty Carlson, Boat Station Manager

Supervisors Not Present:

Jordan Searle – Vice Chairman

Ken Black – Member

- I. **Meeting called to Order by Brent at 11:30 am**
- II. **Changes to Agenda: Order changed because of time restraints for presentation of Awards.**
- III. **Minutes for previous meeting – June 2020 Minutes – Kathy moved to approve Minutes of previous meeting. Brent seconded. Motion carried.**
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report: Report was reviewed and discussed. Kathy moved to approve Treasurer’s Report and pay bills. Brent seconded. Motion Carried.**

ACTION ITEMS

V. OLD BUSINESS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Calendar of Events:

- a. **Next Board meeting** – Next meeting will be Sept 8th with East Cassia SWCD
- b. **Cassia County Fair** – No SWCD Booth because of Covid 19 – August 2020
- c. **IASCD Convention** – November 2020 – Burley Inn Convention Center

2. Supervisor’s Report:

- a. **TA2019 NRCS Grant Report** Sent Q2 – July 20, 2020
- b. **Direct Seed Drill** – Rental – Jeff Repaired Drill and purchased tires. Invoice for service
- c. **Employee Bonus** - Megan asked to discuss Bonus for Tree Sale and Hours for moving Boat Station to Cassia Checking. She is willing to sort documents in the fall. They have not been filed because of space. Brent moved to pay Megan a bonus for her work on the Tree Sales project if approved by all Districts (\$510 split by the 3 districts). Kathy seconded. Motion Carried. Check to see how much we owe her for Boat Station move on QuickBooks.
- d. **IASCD Conference \$500 Donation** – Kathy moved that the District will pay \$500 donation and 2 or 3 door prizes, but keep looking for a sponsor. Brent seconded. Motion passed.

3. Office items:

- a. **Old Printer** in break room needs a home. Give it to a donation organization.
- b. **Funds for Pop** \$30 Each East and West Cassia SWCDS. Kathy moved to put \$30 toward the Pop Fund. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- c. **File Cabinet** that locks for Boat Station personnel, East and West personnel, Bank Statements and Taxes, and Direct Seed Rental files. Online close to \$200. Kathy moved to purchase a file cabinet and split the cost with East Cassia SWCD. Brent seconded. Motion Carried.

d. **Office Supplies** – Need to purchase office supplies.

4. **Admin Report:**

- a. **Direct Seed Update:** 15 rentals East and West. “Demo Farm Loan Drill” went very well.
- b. **TA2019 Employee Report:** Melanie has been really busy working on 6 High Tunnels and Soil Health projects with the state employee. Helped to revise project sheets to be used with Quarterly reports.
- c. **New TA2019 Report form for Quarterly Reports:** Examples reviewed. Approved.

VII. **AGENCY REPORTS/REQUEST**

1. **NRCS Update:**

Zero entry for non-NRCS employees per Curtis. 8.4.2020

Joint Chiefs – Awarded a grant for the Juniper Forest Service. Landowners will get money as a continuation of the BLM. Wood gatherers will be able to take advantage of the program. There will be 3 phases.

Local Working Group Summary and Letter – Letter to be approved by West SWCD and Minidoka at their monthly board meetings. It will be sent end of August if all approve. David’s new title is Team Lead.

First Year all High Tunnels were not approved.

Demo Farm going great. Ray Robinson lease has been drafted in land use by Demo Farm. Corn coming up. Planted Triticale. The drill worked beautifully. 60 to 70% kill rate expected. Small grain and Corn production farm planned for the future.

David needs ideas from the Districts to help get rid of the Pigweed on the Demo Farm.

Soil Health Workshop in Utah – Will be determined to join in their workshop or have it here

2. **ISWCC Update:**

Soil Sampling with University of Idaho. Began planting Fabric in June. Fabric used was 100% cotton. Melanie helped plant the fabric at the local farms. Pasture and Sandy organic Alfalfa areas were chosen on two of the farms. They will stay in the ground for 8 weeks. This practice originated in another state. (North Carolina) We will do Biological and Chemical testing next year. It is a 5-year project.

Soil Health – Now in August it has been almost eight weeks since the Fabric was planted at the Farms. The University of Idaho has started digging it up this week. They will measure and weigh and record the results.

Commission Report – Allocations have been sent out for next year. 5% holdback taken out of local match funding.

Loan Increased – from \$250,000 to \$600,000 for farmers and ranchers. To use on equipment, sprinklers, etc.

Survey Monkey – It was sent out around July 6th. There is still time and it is a good idea fill it out and send it in. Each supervisor can submit a survey as long as the email IP address is different.

Franklin District lawsuit will soon be finalized.

Lunch was served and awards were presented at 12:15 pm.

Meeting commenced again at 1:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 pm. Kathy moved to adjourn the meeting. Brent seconded.

Respectfully submitted by LaRae Warren