

WEST CASSIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DRAFT **MINUTES** – April 12, 2022 BOARD MEETING
4-H Classroom (Cassia County Courthouse), Burley, ID

Place: 4-H Classroom
Date: April 12, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Presiding: Richard Kunau

Supervisors Present
Richard Kunau- Chairman
Jordan Searle- Vice Chairman
Kathy Poulton- Treasurer
Brent Stoker- Member
Ken Black- Member
Kyle Bowers- Associate Member

Employees and Agency Representatives:
Rachelle Osterhout- Admin
Doreen McMurray- I&E Specialist
David Mabey- NRCS
Betty Carlson- Cotterel Boat Station Manager
Carolyn Firth- ISWCC
Melanie Nebeker- TA 2021 Employee

ACTION ITEMS

- I. Called to Order by:** Richard Kunau at 11:05 AM
- II. Changes to the Agenda:** No Changes
- III. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Ken Black moved to approve March 2022 minutes. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Poulton presented the treasurer's report.
Doreen McMurray gave an update on LSEE Soils Teams and the funds they are receiving. During the April 15, 2021 Nationals being canceled and the following options were agreed on by the Idaho State Soils Committee
- Teams with underclassmen FFA members from the 1st and 2nd place 2019 and 2020 teams will be allowed to compete in the National 2022 event as Idaho is allowed 5 teams.
 - If teams with seniors that have or will graduate prior to the 2022 National Event from the 1st and 2nd place 2019 and 2020 Idaho State teams FFA members may use the \$1500 travel stipend to be divided for Student scholarships.
 - Any student that accepts the \$300 scholarship or competes at Nationals will be ineligible to return and compete at the State event.
 - Due to Nationals not allowing graduated Seniors to compete the 2020 2nd place team from Rigby and the 2019 2nd place team from Cambridge have both requested the \$1500 travel stipend to be awarded as scholarships since all their team members will or have graduated High School prior to the 2022 National event.
 - The 2019 1st place team from Troy and the 2020 1st place team from Preston with underclassman will field teams in the 2022 National Soil and Land Judging Event and request the \$1500 for travel
 - None of the teams will have underclassmen FFA members returning to compete at the State Event
- Kathy Poulton moved to approve Treasurer's Report for March 2022. Brent Stoker seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- V. Calendar of Events:**
- a. **Next Board Meeting:** May 10, 2022 Location: 4-H Classroom @ 11:00 AM
 - b. **RC&D Meeting:** May 20, 2022
 - c. **Tri-District Summer Awards Banquet:** July 12, 2022

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Update- David Mabey shared they have been very busy working on contracts. Due to cost they have had a few people back out. Office Covid update: Both Minidoka and Cassia County are operating at 75%, doors are now open to the public and masks are no longer required. Carolyn Firth, David Mabey, Melanie Nebeker and Brooke Morgan are working full time in the office. Meetings are still not allowed. David has been working on LWG meeting dates. The board agreed to November 7-11, 2022. BLM is planting sagebrush April 22, 2022. They will be starting at 1pm and people can leave anytime.

ISWCC Update- Carolyn Firth shared WQPA has been funded with 5 million dollars. The project must be completed and funds spent by June 2023. Carolyn will fill out the application forms for the districts. Districts will also receive 10% admin fees. They are trying to focus the funds on water quality and water quantity. These funds can piggy back with other programs. Carolyn passed out a fact sheet.

TA 2021- Melanie Nebeker has been finishing up HEL (Highly Erodible Lands) compliance reviews for both Minidoka and Cassia County. She has also been working on finishing high tunnel projects. Trainings have slowed down and she has had a little break. Trainings that are coming up are now being spaced out.

Cotterel Boat Station- Betty Carlson updated the board about the boat station and employees. They have inspected 360 watercrafts since they opened. Betty commented that she has a great crew this season, shifts and those working together are working out great. Rachele Osterhout updated the board on communication she had with Nic Zurfluh. He sent Cassia County Sheriff's office contract on April 1, 2022. He also asked questions about Cotterel pay rates Rachele explained that West Cassia wanted to be able to give raises and have a little wiggle room to do so.

ACTION ITEMS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Admin Report:

- a. Request for Assistance (Soil Health Testing):** Rachele Osterhout submitted the request for assistance on March 29, 2022.
- b. District Laptop:** Doreen McMurray is requesting a new laptop. The current laptop was purchased in 2014 and is not compatible with current functions. Brent Stoker made a motion to investigate a new laptop and report back to the board with price quotes. Jordan Searle seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- c. NRC Scholarship:** A brochure and application was passed out with information about the camp. This camp has been canceled the past two years due to covid. Dates have been set for June 20–25, 2022. It will be in Ketchum at the 4-H camp. They have also raised the age from 12-14 to 12-16. Randy Brookes is also looking for help.
- d. Newsletter:** Doreen McMurray is currently working on the newsletter and will be sending it to the printers April 13, 2022. She has included information for the WQPA, NRC Camp, and the Districts scholarship opportunity.
- e. 2022 IASCD Conference:** Dates for conference are November 15-17, 2022. It will be held at the Burley Inn and Convention Center. Doreen McMurray presented an overview about what has been planned. The board discussed the tour options. Amalgamated Sugar and Mart Produce may still have restrictions on how many people can attend in a group.
- f. District Scholarship:** Scholarship information is available on the website. Requirements for students to apply are the following: They are currently a senior planning to attend college in the fall. A college student that has not receive the scholarship in previous years.
- g. Mail:** Rachele Osterhout passed out information about the recent legislative session, Magic Valley Field Day (June 29,2022) Twin Falls Idaho, Ground Water Awareness Fair (April 20,2022) Heyburn Idaho and Pheasants Forever wildlife seed mixes information.
- h. Other:** Tree sale update: The trees will be delivered the week of April 18-25. We will be bagging tree orders the following week at Megan's house.

2. Supervisor's Report:

- a. Summer Awards Banquet:** East Cassia SWCD will be hosting the Tri-District Banquet. West Cassia will welcome Kyle Bowers and present him with a jacket. The board discussed who they would like to recognize. The discussion focused on individuals who have installed high tunnels and have been successful. They will continue the discussion at the next meeting.
- b. Other:** Kathy Poulton presented information about a high tunnel and shared pictures of the process of it being built to fully in operation. Ken Black shared information from the Division IV meeting about a high tunnel that was installed in Idaho Falls for the community to use. There was discussion about finding a place to install one in our area.

The meeting Adjourned at 12:56 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rachele Osterhout