

East Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



Performance Report FY22

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)



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Burley, ID 83318
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www.minicassiaswcd.com
Board Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm

Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.

2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, and pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.

3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices such as reduced tilling and planting cover crops. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.

4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. The by-product of educating children is that information is then passed on to their parents.

FY2022 Revenue 7/1/21 - 6/30/22

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| \$ 22,537.30 | State – Base & Match Funding |
| \$ 6,000.00 | County Appropriations |
| \$ 470.39 | Tree Sale Profits |
| \$ 2,064.13 | Admin Fees Direct Seed Project |
| \$ 375.00 | Admin Fees LSEE |

\$ 31,446.82 TOTAL

Mission Statement

To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.

To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.

District Operations/Accomplishments

Seedling Tree Sale

East Cassia manages the Mini-Cassia Annual Seedling Tree Sale. The three districts managed to sell over 3,010 seedlings of the 11 different varieties offered. As always, we talked on the phone to many great people that are dedicated in promoting good conservation practices. This year each of the three districts profited \$470.39. Income from the tree sales is used to help conduct district educational activities such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, and speech and poster contests.



Mini-Cassia Direct Seed Cover Project

The 2 Cassia and the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Mini-Cassia area continue working together to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. 2021 was the seventh year to rent out the seed drills to landowners. Districts have continued promoting good soil health practices which benefit the landowners in many ways. They encourage the implementation of the 5 Soil Health Principles which include keeping the soil covered, minimizing soil disturbance, including plant diversity, keeping a living root in the soil, and integrating livestock. An annual Soil Health workshop is held in the first quarter of each year to help inform and educate those interested in how cover crop plantings improve soil health. Our 7th Soil Health Workshop was held in February 2022. The theme for the workshop was “Making a Difference on My Farm”. There were 140 individuals who attended in person and 36 joined via Zoom.

Board/Business Meetings

East Cassia SWCD holds monthly board meetings with agendas posted at offices and on the website. Supervisors and district employees attended the Fall 2021 Division IV meeting hosted by Blaine SCD and the Spring 2022 was hosted by West Cassia SWCD. All district financial information and documents are available for public review. East Cassia has been helping plan the IASCD Conference that will be held in November 2022.

Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2022:

- \$500 college scholarship to Melissa Spurgeon
- \$100 to Idaho Ag in the Classroom
- \$200 to Know Your Government
- \$100 sponsor to Natural Resource Camp

Donations were also given to Envirothon and The Idaho State Forestry Contest.

The district distributed three Conservation Update Newsletters to approximately 1,000 landowners. East Cassia SWCD supported the Idaho State FFA and 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event CDE where students from regional contest around the state come to Cassia County to compete in the state event. They celebrated 51 Years of land judging and received T-shirts. Troy FFA placed 1st and American Falls FFA placed 2nd. NRCS workers, District employees, and SWCD Supervisors provided the equipment and labor. Over 20 volunteers assisted, including County Commissioners and soil Scientists.

Awards Banquet

In the summer of 2022 East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District combined with West Cassia and Minidoka SWCD for their Awards Banquet honoring farms who have exhibited exemplary conservation efforts. East Cassia honored Todd Gerratt for his work on the Raft River Recharge Project. Steve Ward received his 15-year service pin.

Operations

The district continues to run out of a temporary office in the Cassia County Courthouse so they can continue to serve the public during the Covid-19 NRCS office restrictions. In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The district requested \$1,000.00 increase for the upcoming fiscal year. This funding helps the district with employee payroll, scholarships and awards, and daily district operations. East Cassia manages an additional employee supported by a Technical Assistance Grant. This employee works directly with NRCS staff assisting with their work load and various projects. The district completed and reviewed their Annual Plan and their 5 Year Plan along with their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022.



Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event October 2021

East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rob Cottle | Chairman | 1750 S. 190 E Malta, ID 83342 | cottleranch@gmail.com |
| Steve Ward | Vice-Chairman | 2900 S Narrows Road Malta, ID 83342 | steward64@live.com |
| Ken Woodworth | Treasurer | 51 N 3350 E American Falls, ID 83211 | ctrfarms@hotmail.com |
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