

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for January 19th, 2023
Butte County Business Center, Arco, ID

Board Present: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Sara Zollinger

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Steve Smith – Custer County Commissioner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to accept the December minutes as written. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer’s Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer’s report and checks to be approved and signed, including a \$50 donation to the State FFA and 4-H Land and Soil Evaluation Event and the \$60 annual IDEA dues. A motion was made by Todd, with a second from Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley gave an update the Envirothon planning meetings.

Stephanie Barnes gave an update on upcoming grant opportunities, the TA grant, and the Winter Meeting.

Sara Zollinger has been assisting with EQIP planning and mapping and conducting off-site GRP monitoring.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. He provided an update on current pipeline project progress. He gave an update on the Craters of the Moon fencing project. The Classic CSP deadline is this month. Discussion was made on sharing the new NRCS administrative assistant position with the Salmon office. Discussion was made on the PL-566 funding for repairs to the Mackay dam.

Steve Smith, Custer County Commissioner: Steve Smith was present and gave a brief update on their activities. He mentioned they are seeing more cheatgrass invasion in their area and that drought conditions continue to be an issue.

Old Business:

Annual Plan of Work: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to sign the Annual Plan of Work and submit it to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. A second was

made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

New Business:

Letter of Intent to Counties: Discussion was made on increasing our ask amounts to the counties. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to increase our Custer County ask to \$4,500. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.** A motion was made to increase our Butte County ask to \$8,500 by Walt Johnson, second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Updated Personnel Policy: Discussion was made on compensation time and overtime policies for the new personnel policy. The new policy will state that compensation time needs to be used in the calendar year that it is accrued or it will be forfeited. A maximum of 120 hours can be accumulated and will be given at 1 ½ hours to every hour worked over 40 for full-time employees and 24 hours for part-time employees. No overtime will be allowed unless prior approval is given. The TA employee will send their timesheet to Jesse Fullmer for approval before sending it in to the District. Stephanie will make the updates in the personnel policy and will put this item on the February agenda for approval.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held February 16th at noon at the Butte County Business Center in Arco.

A motion was made at 2:16 p.m. by Todd Perkes to adjourn, a second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for February 16th, 2023
Butte County Business Center, Arco, ID

Board Present: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Sara Zollinger

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, David Callister – UI Extension, Brian Reed – ISWCC, Kevin Whitcomb – Big Lost River Irrigation District, Larry Quist, Charles and Rachel Barnes, Mary Krummer - ICRMP

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:40 p.m.

Approve Minutes: Discussion was made on corrections to the January minutes. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to accept the January minutes with corrections. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer’s Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer’s report and checks to be approved and signed. A motion was made by Mark Telford, with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Mary Krummer with ICRMP was in attendance and gave the board an overview of coverage and answered questions.

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley gave an update on the Envirothon planning meetings and team status.

Stephanie Barnes announced that Mark and Paige Telford had been selected as winners for the regional Hugh Hammond Bennett award.

Sara Zollinger has been assisting with EQIP planning and mapping and conducting off-site GRP monitoring. She attended a soil health training. She shared that the Blaine SCD will be hosting a workshop on April 19th. Discussion was made on her remaining training needed for conservation planner status.

A motion was made to pay for half of the hotel expenses for Sara to attend a week-long conservation planner training in Caldwell by Mark Telford. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Randy Purser gave an update on his attendance at the Butte County Commissioners meeting in January. Walt Johnson gave an update on his attendance at the Custer County Commissioners meeting in February.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. A pathway's student will be coming to the Arco office in April for the summer. He has been working with the irrigation district to install automatic ditch measurement devices.

UI Extension: David Callister gave an update on the trial plots and upcoming educational schools.

ISWCC: Brian Reed was present to update the District on Commission activities. He will be serving as our contact until new staff is hired.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Office Rent for 2023: Discussion was made on the District's office rent. It was agreed to pay rent one month at a time instead of yearly.

Butte County Weed Grants: Discussion was made on the county's request to search for grants to help with the county weed department. Stephanie will follow-up with county commissioner Wes Collins for more information.

TA Grant Renewal: Discussion was made on the need for renewing the TA grant. A motion was made by Mark Telford to reapply for the NACD's technical assistance grant with a \$48,000 ask and \$12,000 match. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Lost River Irrigation Pipeline Automated Headgate Fund Request: Jesse Fullmer presented the board with a request to help fund the purchase of an automated headgate measurement device. The board tabled this until next month.

RCPD Request from the Burnett Water Users: Stephanie will work with the NRCS to draft a RCPD request to extend the length of their ditch-to-pipeline conversion project.

2023 WQPA Applications: Discussion was made on how the District will prioritize the application requests received from local landowners to submit for WQPA funding.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held March 16th at noon at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Arco.

A motion was made at 3:25 p.m. by Todd Perkes to adjourn, a second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

No meeting in March

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for April 6th, 2023
Butte County Business Center, Arco, ID

Board Present: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Sara Zollinger

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS

Zoom attendance: Stephanie Barnes, Brian Reed - ISWCC

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 5:07 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to accept the February minutes as written. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed since the February 16th meeting. A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley gave an update on the Envirothon planning meetings and the upcoming poster contest. Discussion was made on the UI Natural Resources Camp this summer. Students who would like to attend will pay \$50 of the cost and the District will pay the remaining amount.

Stephanie Barnes asked about running newspaper advertisements for the no-till drill. It was agreed to run an ad once in April and once in May. Stephanie will send out donation request letters. Stephanie also had a support letter for a grant the Blaine County Canal Company is submitting.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham to sign the support letter with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Sara Zollinger has been assisting with CSP and EQIP contracting. She and Stephanie have been working with Idaho Department of Fish and Game on a grant application. She will be attending the Division VI meeting in Driggs.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. They are re-flying a position and opening new positions. He has been meeting with the PL-566 group concerning the Mackay Dam. Discussion was made on applying for additional funds in the next technical assistance grant and hiring an engineer. Discussion was made on hosting a local working group meeting in early May. An update was given on the Quaking Aspen

pipeline project. No funding has been received for the project, but the NRCS will be putting their project in a different pool of funding this year with hopes it will be funded.

ISWCC: Brian Reed was present to update the District on Commission activities. Discussion was made on WQPA.

Old Business:

Lost River Pipeline Measuring Device: Discussion continued regarding assisting in the purchase for a measuring device on the Lost River Pipeline.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to pay \$5,000 towards the purchase of the measuring device and to place a cap of \$5,000 on any future requests for measuring device financial assistance. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

TA Grant Renewal: Discussion was made on hiring an engineer with the NACD technical assistance grant. Since engineering has been the bottleneck area for NRCS projects, having an engineer on staff would be of the greatest assistance. Requesting more funding from the grant would require more matching funds from the District. Jesse has talked with the Blaine SCD and they are unwilling at this time to contribute more funding. The Butte SWCD board supports the idea to hire an engineer. Discussion was made on covering the extra match by charging an engineering fee to landowners in the Blaine SCD for utilizing the engineer.

New Business:

Quickbooks Update: Stephanie updated the board on the quickbooks desktop software being unsupported. Quickbooks is pushing everyone to a monthly subscription that is around \$80/month. Hansen Business Services in Challis has offered quickbooks for \$30/month if she can get four conservation districts to go in together. She can set up the new account at a rate of \$60/hour.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to pay Hansen Business Services for a year of quickbooks subscription and to have them set up our account. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Arbor Day Activities: A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Hayden Isham to order 250 trees from Pitkin Nursery to hand out to students and residents for Arbor Day. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

LOR Foundation Shadeball Grant: Stephanie provided an update on the shadeball grant and project and explained the purchases made so far.

Idaho Aviation Association: Walt Johnson shared information on educational and scholarships available through the Idaho Aviation Association. Mindy will share the information with the schools.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to share the information in the schools. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

RMEF Grant: Stephanie and Sara have been working with Brett Gullett from the IDFG to submit a grant application to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for a second year of fence retrofit/removal in the pronghorn migration corridor.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham, seconded by Walt Johnson to submit the RMEF grant. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

2023 WQPA Applications: Discussion was made on how the District will prioritize the application requests received from local landowners to submit for WQPA funding.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held May 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the Butte County Business Center in Arco.

A motion was made at 7:00 p.m. by Walt Johnson to adjourn, a second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for April 18th, 2023
Natural Resources Conservation Service office, Arco, ID
And via Zoom

Board Present: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS

Zoom attendance: Todd Perkes, Stephanie Barnes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 3:01 p.m.

Discussion was made on projects requesting State Water Quality for Agriculture Program (WQPA) funding. Considerations were given to the project's ability to be completed within the deadline, engineering availability, NRCS staff time, other funding available, and water savings.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to submit a WQPA application combining four requests for sprinkler-to-sprinkler conversions. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made at 3:21 p.m. by Walt Johnson to adjourn, a second was made by Randy Purser. Voting Aye: Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for May 18th, 2023
Butte County Business Center, Arco, ID

Board Present: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 3:12 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Todd to accept the April minutes as written. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed. Todd stated that the \$5,000.00 approved for the Lost River pipeline measuring device needs to be paid to the company doing the work rather than an individual. A motion was made by Hayden Isham with a second from Todd Perkes to approve the report and sign the checks. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley gave an update on the Envirothon event. She has been in the schools and had 10 applications for students to attend Natural Resources Camp. She brought the 6th grade posters for judging after the meeting.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to send all ten students on a scholarship, Hayden Isham seconded. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Stephanie Barnes gave an updates on grants. She asked about having a budget hearing and advertising in the newspaper.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. He updated the board on our current WQPA project. Two soil conservationist positions were flown for the Arco office. Sara has been attending training and will be attending a cultural resources training in Caldwell in June. The next local working group meeting will be held in August or September. The CSP sign-up was announced.

A motion was made to pay \$175 towards Sara's cultural resource training expenses by Todd Perkes, second by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Old Business:

Updated Personnel Policy: Tabled for next month.

New Business:

ISWCC Survey: The annual Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission survey was completed during the meeting. A motion to sign and submit the survey was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Employee Evaluations: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to increase the pay rate of Mindy Hawley and Stephanie Barnes by 8% to reflect the increase in the standard of living beginning in the first payperiod of June. A second was provided by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Laser Printer Purchase: Stephanie asked if a laser printer could be purchased with the remaining balance of the office supply budget. It was agreed to purchase a laser printer for the office.

Senior Scholarships: Discussion was made on having a scholarship program. It was suggested to put a line item on next year's budget and to discuss it again in the Spring.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held June 15th at noon at Bottolfsen Park in Arco.

A motion was made at 4:17 p.m. by Hayden Isham to adjourn, a second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Hayden Isham, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for June 15th, 2023
Bottolfson Park, Arco, ID

Board Present: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Sara Zollinger

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Brian Reed – ISWCC, David Callister – UI Extension

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Todd to accept the May minutes as written. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed. Discussion was made on the format of the treasurer's report and changes will be made for next month. A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson to approve the report and sign the checks. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley will be taking ten students to Natural Resources Camp next week. She conducted beaver dam analog monitoring for the NRCS.

Sara Zollinger has been attending trainings and helping with EQIP contracting. She has an unofficial employment offer as a soil conservationist at the Arco NRCS office. She requested permission to attend Irrigation 101 training.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to send Sara to Irrigation 101 training and pay mileage, hotel and meals at the per diem rates. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Stephanie Barnes gave an updates on grants and presented new grants for potential funding.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. He gave updates on the EQIP and CSP sign-ups. Discussion was made on RCPP applications. The NRCS water outlook was discussed.

Old Business:

Updated Personnel Policy: A motion was made by Randy Purser with a second from Walt Johnson to approve the updated personnel policy. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A copy of the Acknowledgement of Receipt form was given to each employee to sign and return.

New Business:

FY 23-24 Budget: Discussion was made on a correction needed to the budget. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to approve the FY 23-24 budget with corrections. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Financial and Match Report: Tabled until July.

Audit: Discussion was made on having an audit and the state's requirements. A motion was made by Mark Telford with a second from Todd Perkes to sign the letter of engagement from Serle Hart and Associates to conduct the audit. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held July 20th at noon at the USDA Service Center in Arco.

A motion was made at 1:53 p.m. by Walt Johnson to adjourn, a second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Randy Purser. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for August 22nd, 2023
Moore Park, Moore, Idaho

Board Present: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, Randy Purser

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, David Callister – UI Extension

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:28 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the July minutes as written. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Mark Telford to approve the report and sign the checks. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley gave an update on the upcoming Speech Contest and Natural Resources Tour. She worked with the NRCS to submit two RCPP applications.

Stephanie Barnes gave an update on grants.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. The EQIP deadline is October 6th. Jeff Theobald accepted a position in Arizona and will be leaving soon. They should be flying the resource conservationist and two soil conservationist positions soon. The soil conservation technician job opening closed and he should see the applicant panel soon. Discussion was made on upcoming projects.

A motion was made to spend \$2,500.00 towards the engineering design needed for Travis and Paige McAfee's irrigation pipeline by Mark Telford, second by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to utilize the reserved USFWS funds to provide cost-share to help retrofit fences to wildlife friendly fences on the Stevensen and Babcock boundary in the pronghorn migration route. Mark Telford seconded. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

UI Extension: David Callister said someone from his office would be available to help with the 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour. He provided an update on the County Fair. They have youth activities planned now that school is back in session. Pesticide training classes are coming up. Discussion was made about topics for educational classes. Ideas were aftermath grazing, hemp economics, and weed management.

Old Business:

WQPA Contracts: The Water Quality Program for Agriculture contracts between the District and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and between the District and the four landowners participating in the 2023-2024 program were signed.

New Business:

6th Grade Tour and Speech Contest: Mindy will work with the schools to set a date for the tour and the speech contest will be held during the September board meeting.

TA Grant Applications and Interviews: The applicant pool was small, but it was decided to interview and then decide if the position should be re-advertised after we know if an additional year of funding will be received.

District Boundary Signs: Todd provided an update and had photos of the condition of the current boundary signs. He and Jesse Fullmer will coordinate a time to collect the existing signs for repainting.

DEQ Grant: A motion was made by Mark Telford to sign the DEQ Subaward agreement for the \$250,000 grant to extend the Blaine County Canal Company pipeline project. Walt Johnson seconded. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held September 26th following the 6th grade natural resources tour at the American Legion building in Mackay.

A motion was made at 1:30 p.m. by Mark Telford to adjourn, a second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

NO BOARD MEETING HELD IN SEPTEMBER

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for October 12th, 2023
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Hayden Isham, Randy Purser

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, David Callister – UI Extension, Brian Reed - ISWCC

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:26 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the August minutes as written. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed, including a \$5,000 request from the Moore Water Users Association for engineering services provided by Rumsey Engineering on the Aikele stub pipeline. A motion was made by Hayden Isham with a second from Walt Johnson to approve the report and sign the checks. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley reported finishing the cheatgrass challenge monitoring for this year. The 6th Grade Tour went well. Both speech contestants will get to go onto the Division level.

Stephanie Barnes gave an update on stockmanship manual inventory and discussion was made on if we should order more. It was advised that we point customers to Steve Cote's new edition and not to reorder the old version. Discussion was made on Division and Annual Conference attendance.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham with a second from Walt Johnson to send Mindy Hawley, Berett Rosenkrance (NRCS), the two speech contestants and their parents (six people total) to the Division meeting and to send Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, and Mindy Hawley to the IASCD Conference in Boise. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. They received 187 EQIP applications. The CSP sign-up is open. They are going through a quality assurance review. NRCS teams will be getting Inflation Reduction Act funds, our team will receive around \$600,000. The NRCS teams are being urged to host town-hall meetings for the public to learn about these funds and other NRCS and Farm Service Agency programs.

The District agreed to pay for the rental of the community center in Moore if the NRCS decides to hold a town-hall meeting in our District.

UI Extension: David Callister helped with the 6th grade tour. He is headed to Montana for a negotiation course. He will be holding an advisory committee meeting soon. David also provided an update on how the Blaine County Canal Company's newly installed pipeline is working.

ISWCC: Brian Reed provided copies of the latest ISWCC newsletter. He urged board members to reach out to elected officials with positive reviews of the Water Quality Program for Agriculture. He also informed the board of a listening session the ISWCC will be hosting as part of the IASCD conference in November.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

LWG Recommendations: A motion was made to approve and sign the LWG recommendations by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Moore Water Users Association Engineering Funds Request: The \$5,000 request for funding assistance on the engineering design for the Aikele stub pipeline was approved along with the treasurer's report. Discussion was made on capping future funding assistance. A motion was made by Todd Perkes that new requests for engineering funding assistance be capped at \$5,000. A second was given by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Producer and Contractor of the Year Awards: Discussion was made on bringing back the District tradition of selecting area producers and contractors for an award for their outstanding commitment to conservation. It was agreed to do so and to have the NRCS staff be the selection committee.

TA Grant Working Agreement: A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Hayden Isham to sign the working agreement for Timothy Barnes the new NACD grant employee. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held November 16th at noon in the NRCS office. The December meeting will be December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Golden West Café.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham to adjourn, a second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for November 16th, 2023
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Randy Purser

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Brian Reed – ISWCC, Dana Izatt – Searle Hart and Associates

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 11:14 a.m.

Dana Izatt with Searle Hart and Associates was present to present the audit report and answer questions. Discussion was made on audit requirements for federal funding.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to accept the audit report and approve payment. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the October minutes as written. A second was made by Todd Perkes Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Todd Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson to approve the report and sign the checks. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Todd Perkes and Walt Johnson shared their experience at this year's IASCD conference. Todd and Randy gave an update on repairs needed on the no-till drill.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson, second by Randy Purser, to have the no-till drill repaired at Valley Equipment and Irrigation in Blackfoot for the estimated \$1,800.00. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Mindy Hawley reported that Eliana Cecil won the Division and State level speech contests. Discussion was made on finding an advisor for the Envirothon team next year. An advertisement will be put in the newspaper.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson with a second from Todd Perkes to put an advertisement in the newspaper for an Envirothon advisor and we will pay their mileage and expenses. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Stephanie Barnes reminded the board to make sure their mileage logs were updated.

Timothy Barnes gave an update on his activities. He has been doing site visits with NRCS staff. He completed a survey in the valley. Discussion was made on purchasing a survey grade GPS unit. Timothy will do research on units and costs.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. They are currently working on eligibility for the EQIP applications received. They hired a soil conservation technician and she will start in the next month or so. A soil conservationist and range conservationist position were flown this month. They will be having repairs done on the building this winter. Discussion was made on the town hall meeting happening January 8th.

A motion was made to provide a \$200 sponsorship to the NRCS town hall meeting by Todd Perkes. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

ISWCC: Brian Reed provided copies of the latest ISWCC newsletter. He provided information on their loan program and rates. We discussed the CREP program. The Commission redesignated which employees will be covering our District and starting in January, George Hitz will be our contact.

Old Business:

NRCS Town Hall Meeting – discussed during the NRCS report.

New Business:

Elect Board Officers for 2024: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to have Randy Purser as Chairman, Walt Johnson as Vice-Chairman and Todd Perkes as Treasurer. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Letter of Intent for Counties: Discussion was made about funding requests for the counties and attendance to the commissioner's meetings in January. A motion was made to add 5% to last year's request by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Annual Performance Report: A motion was made to approve the annual performance report and sign the certificate by Walt Johnson. Todd Perkes seconded. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Producer, Partner and Contractor of the Year Award Nominations: Jesse Fullmer presented the nominations that the NRCS staff made for producer, partner and contractor of the year awards. Byron Pehrson was nominated as the producer of the year for his contributions to helping with receiving funding for the water management entity projects. Brett Gullett with IDFG and Jordan Hennefer, BLM, were nominated as partners of the year for their work with

private landowners. Tom Darland was nominated for contractor of the year for his work on the irrigation ditch liner and pipeline projects in the District.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson with a second from Todd Perkes to accept the nominations and invite the winners to the Annual Meeting in December. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held December 16th at 6:00 p.m. at Golden West Café in Arco.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to adjourn, a second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, and Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for December 16th, 2023
Golden West Cafe, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Mark Telford, Hayden Isham

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, George Hitz – ISWCC, David Callister – UI Extension

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 8:03 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt to approve the November minutes as written. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report. A problem was found with the Frontier Credit Union account’s reconciliation report so it was not accepted. Stephanie will work to correct the report for next month’s meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Telford to sign the checks. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Stephanie Barnes shared that an Envirothon advisor has been found and that two more students are needed to make a team. She also shared information about the IASCD Legislative Social in January.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. They are currently working on eligibility for the EQIP applications received. They hired a soil conservation technician and she will start in the next month or so. A soil conservationist and range conservationist position were flown this month.

ISWCC: George Hitz was present to introduce himself and update the board on ISWCC activities. An update was provided on WQPA projects. Discussion was made on the types of projects George has experience with and what projects the District will need assistance with during the coming year.

UI Extension: David Callister will be participating in the NRCS townhall meeting. He has been busy with pesticide certification and credit classes. Pasture and cereal schools will be coming up. A farm succession planning workshop is coming up as well.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to pay the Golden West bill for the Annual Meeting dinner. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held January 11th at 12:00 p.m. at the NRCS office in Arco.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to adjourn, a second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**