

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.**