

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.**