

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.**