

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2026
NRCS Conference Room, Arco, Idaho

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

Junior Board: Jayson Giesbrecht

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Jarrie Schaefer

Guests Present: Berett Rosenkrance - NRCS, David Callister – U of I Extension Butte County, Madison Vargovich – ISWCC, Brett Gullett - IDFG

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:08 pm.

Amy Briggs with Searle Hart and Associates joined us to give us our audit and single audit. She reported that everything looked good, but we will in the future need to amend our budget, if we have large money changes as we did this last year, by having another budget hearing and refiling it with the soil commission.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Mark Telford to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s report as given. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.**

Communications: Idaho Department of Labor was letting everyone know that unemployment tax has dropped from 0.788% to 0.729%, a nice decrease for employers. No-Till Farmer Magazine would like us to purchase a subscription, the board said no. Idaho Ag in the Classroom would like a sponsorship, the board said no, NCPP Certificates for BSWCD for having two candidates win nominations or best producer and best planner of the year. IASCD is looking for an executive director.

Monthly Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board: Mindy Hawley – Envirothon meeting is January 23rd. Getting ready for 6th grade posters and high school scholarships. Jarrie Schaefer – turned in TA Grant for two people, waiting to hear back on that one. Watching for Sage Grouse grant to open, as well as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Trying to finish up transparency report.

ISWCC: Madison Vargovich – Tomorrow IASCD social in Boise with Legislatures. Friday commissioners are meeting and discussing 5% holdback. East and West Side holding workshop on January 27 Technology to Enhance Agricultural Practices. Annual plan and 5-Year plan due March 31st. Have Jarrie Schaefer write two letters to the legislature to encourage the continuation of WQPA and to discuss how we have an issue with being placed with IDWR. Mark Telford discussed how the water people keep saying they are under employed and can’t get

around everything. He is worried they are going to use Soil Districts to enforce water issues. Randy Purser says that is a good point to make. First person in time, is the first person to get their rights. State says there needs to be a mitigation, without one they will not allow watering. The water guy says he will not turn off the water, but may fine you.

U of I: David Callister – had a pretty good pest certification, 3 credits count towards license. Doing a lot with farm stress. Survey on farm succession. People know they need to do it, but don't know how to proceed or unsure of feelings towards doing it. No-till drill trial going to try planting lentils. Uses less water and may break up some cycles. Can use districts drill. Will help with weed issue. Market for lentils is back east. Lentils are not as critical on water timing as some other cover crops.

NRCS: Berett Rosenkrance – student from Arco comes in for a student to work program. District paying him. Going to be doing interviews, mapping of wildlife fences. Some field work. Just did CD and card training. Good training. Emma will have both trainings. She is still doing well. Applications close this week. Possibly the superintendent lady has a son with a degree in ag science who might be interested in applying for a TA position. Nothing new on pipelines. Still meeting tomorrow at 1:00 pm.

ID Fish and Game: Collard pronghorn acting differently because of weather. Lagging behind by 2 months. Gates needed to remain open all winter because just not moving normally.

Old Business:

District Boundary Sign: Randy Purser still needs to speak with state on neighbor's property. Mindy spoke with her dad. Sounds like the state will put the signs in for us if we contact them. Chad Barbar is his name. Sign needs to be a beak away sign. When Hayden has a day, he needs to call Randy, the same with Walt and they can get together to put signs up.

NACD TA Grant: Jarrie Schaefer turned in the grant for year 8 for 2 people.

New Business:

Elections: Mark Telford nominates Randy Purser as President. Walt Johnson seconds the nomination. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.** Mark Telford nominates Walt Johnson as Vice President and Todd Perkes as Treasurer. Hayden Isham seconds the nominations. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.**

East and West Side Technology Donation: East and West Side are holding a Technology to Enhance Agricultural Practices Workshop and are asking districts to donate \$100. Todd Perkes moves that we donate \$100. Walt Johnson seconds this motion. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.**

Idaho Envirothon: Asking for donations. Walt Johnson moves to donate \$200. Hayden Isham seconds that motion. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.**

No-Till Drill: check if it is different if pulling with a tractor rather than a pickup. Talk with Madison Vargovich about a grant for a new no-till drill.

Next meeting will be February 25, 2026, at noon, NRCS Conference Room.

It was moved by Hayden Isham and seconded by Mark Telford to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: none. **Motion Approved.** Randy Purser adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.