

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for January 11th, 2023
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Hayden Isham (via telephone)

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: Berett Rosenkrance – NRCS

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:20 p.m.

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

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

The treasurer's report approval was tabled for next month.

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Stephanie Barnes shared that she is working on an aging infrastructure grant for the McAfee pipeline. Discussion was made on holding grants for projects that do not have an NRCS contract. Berett stated that even if a project does not have an NRCS contract, they can do a conservation technical assistance (CTA) plan for them and then provide oversight to ensure the project is being installed correctly.

Mindy Hawley gave an update on Envirothon planning meetings. Discussion was made on scholarship details.

Timothy Barnes has completed his first survey and gotten it signed off on by the state engineer. He is working on other designs and doing trainings.

NRCS: Berett Rosenkrance gave an update on NRCS activities. The townhall meeting went well and had around 40 participants. Tricia Rogers will start work on the 16th and will function as a conservation planner. She attended the last BLRID meeting and stated the board voted to require third party water right audits on pipeline and liner projects that have an NRCS contract. She stated this will be very helpful to them as they do the planning. Berett gave an update on Inflation Reduction Act funding and wildlife friendly fencing funding.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

High School Scholarship: Mindy had several example applications for other conservation district scholarships. Discussion was made on scholarship amount and requirements. The board agreed to name the scholarship after past board member Jeff Isham. Mindy will bring a draft application to the next meeting.

Envirothon Donation Request: A donation request was received for the Envirothon event. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to donate \$50 to the event. Hayden Isham provided a second. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Annual Plan of Work and Five-Year Plan: A copy of the annual plan of work was provided to the board members and will be put on next month's agenda for discussion and possible approval.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held February 22nd at 12:00 p.m. at the NRCS office in Arco.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham to adjourn, a second was made by Walt Johnson at 1:20 p.m. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for February 22nd, 2023
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Todd Perkes

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:45 p.m.

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

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s reports from December, January, and February. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Mindy Hawley gave an update on the Envirothon team. She and Timothy Barnes will be volunteering at the state competition in April. The 6th grade poster contest is coming up. The national theme is “May the Forest be with you always.” She attended the IASCD annual conference planning meeting and let the board know we will need a door prize to donate. Mindy also had the final draft of the senior scholarship application form available. She will share the form with the school counselors and it will be posted on our webpage.

Stephanie Barnes gave an update on the RCPP agreements. She also provided an update on all the open grants. Stephanie provided a copy of the budget vs. actuals form for the board to review. Discussion was made on applying for another Idaho DEQ grant this year.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson with a second from Todd Perkes to submit an Idaho DEQ BMP grant application for the McAfee pipeline in the Little Lost River Valley. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Timothy Barnes has been working on engineering designs for a spring development and doing energy calculations for the IRA funding pool. Discussion was made on the purchase of a survey grade GPS unit and it was tabled until next month. Discussion was made on taking unpaid leave to conduct sage grouse surveying from late March through April. It was agreed that he could

take up to 10 hours of unpaid leave to conduct the monitoring. His attendance to an engineering training in Boise on March 5-7 was discussed.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to send Timothy to the engineering training in Boise and pay for his hotel and meals. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Walt Johnson attended the IASCD annual conference planning meeting and will continue to be involved and provide updates to the board.

NRCS: Tricia Rogers introduced herself to the board. Jesse Fullmer provided an update on NRCS activities. They have been having issues with their ranking software and it is causing delays. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Classic CSP funding sign-ups are ongoing. Our state conservationist Curtis Elke took another position and is now the central regional conservationist. The Arco office should have a soil conservationist, range conservationist and administrative assistant positions opening soon. Jesse provided updates on current pipeline projects and the PL-566 project. The big game fence retrofit project applications total over \$2 million.

UI Extension: David Callister gave an update on the hemp meeting. He will be hosting a Zoom meeting at the BCBC on March 13th for people to attend a pesticide certification class. He has been attending farm succession planning courses.

ISWCC: George Hitz provided an update on the WQPA funding. One million dollars has been secured for the project. He provided an overview of the Commission's proposed timeline and changes to the WQPA program. The ISWCC staff have been providing information and presentations to the legislatures during this session. He provided an update on the CREP program.

Old Business:

High School Scholarship: Discussed above.

Annual Plan of Work: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the annual plan of work and submit it to the ISWCC. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

New Business:

Beverly Beach: Beverly presented a program called "Farms of Eden" to the board and invited them to a Zoom call at 8am Saturday morning to learn more. Todd Perkes will attend.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant: A motion was made by Todd Perkes, with a second from Walt Johnson to submit the application requesting funding for fence retrofit projects. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

TA Grant MOA: A motion was made by Walt Johnson with a second from Todd Perkes to sign the MOA with the National Association of Conservation Districts for another year of technical assistance grant funding. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

IDEA Dues and Donation Request: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to pay the annual dues and to make a \$40 donation. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson to enter executive session at 2:34 p.m. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Walt Johnson to leave executive session at 2:58p.m. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be March 21st at noon in the NRCS office.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to adjourn at 3:00 p.m., a second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for March 21st, 2024
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: David Callister – UI Extension

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:17 p.m.

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

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s report. 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.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Stephanie gave an update on DEQ grant applications and presented support letters to sign. She updated the board on changes to the annual central registry submission. Discussion was made on drill rental advertisements.

Timothy has been attending trainings and working on energy calculations for energy smart applications. He is also working on engineering designs for NRCS applications.

Mindy gave an update on the upcoming stewardship week activities, poster contest, and the Natural Resource Camp. Discussion was made to keep the \$50 fee for campers this year with the District paying the remaining amount. She will be attending the upcoming division meeting and IASCD annual conference planning meeting.

UI Extension: David Callister gave an overview of recent trainings. They are hiring two AmeriCorps positions to help with 4-H activities. They have and will be conducting agriculture activities in the schools. Discussion was made on the trial plots in Howe.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Division VI Meeting Attendance: Discussion was made on meeting attendance. Walt Johnson, Mindy Hawley, Timothy Barnes, and an NRCS employee will be attending.

DEQ Grant Applications: Discussed during the employee reports.

IDFG Contract Request: The Idaho Department of Fish and Game requested that we hold the contract for their fencing projects with area landowners in the area to streamline the process. Discussion was made on workload and it was agreed we could hold the contract.

RCPP Updates: An update on the RCPP negotiation process was given. A motion was made by Mark Telford to sign the confidentiality agreement. A second was given by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Junior Board Creation: Discussion was made on fulfilling the inclusive board succession planning and workforce development requirement for the new technical assistance grant. The idea to create a junior board was discussed. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to establish a junior board and budget \$500 for their meetings and activities. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

District Donation Requests: Discussion was made on asking for donations this year. It was agreed to send out the usual letter and expand our mailing list to include pipe companies, grant recipients, and contractors.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be April 18th at noon in the Arco USDA office.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Mark Telford to enter executive session at 1:26 p.m. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Mark Telford with a second from Hayden Isham to leave executive session at 1:50 p.m. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to adjourn at 1:55 p.m., a second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for April 18th, 2024
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: David Callister – UI Extension, George Hitz – ISWCC, Vickie Rainey, Tricia Rogers - NRCS

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

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

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

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Walt Johnson attended the last IASCD annual conference planning meeting and brought ideas of what the Butte SWCD could provide for the goodie bags. He will research costs and report back.

Stephanie gave an update on DEQ grant applications submitted. She also provided a timeline for the current TA grant.

Timothy has been designing pipeline tie-ins for NRCS program applicants. He has had some field training with NRCS engineers. He will be helping both days of Envirothon. He attended the Division VI meeting and provided an overview.

Mindy gave an update conducting stewardship activities at the Mackay school. She will have the posters at the next meeting for judging. Envirothon is next week and she will be there both days. She attended the last planning meeting for the IASCD annual conference.

UI Extension: David Callister attended the annual conference in Moscow. The Extension will be hiring a forage specialist and an irrigation specialist to work statewide. He is conducting a ranch succession class that has been well attended.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission: George Hitz was present to discuss the legislative session. He provided updates on the Water Quality Program for Agriculture application process.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

WQPA Grant Application: Discussion was made on potential projects to submit for the WQPA grant funding.

College Scholarship Applications: The scholarship applications were reviewed by the board. Discussion was made to write the checks to the college or to the student, it was agreed to write the checks out to the student. A motion was made by Hayden Isham with a second from Walt Johnson to award \$500 scholarships to Alyssa Hawley and Tannabe Cecil. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, and Hayden Isham. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be May 16th at noon at the Butte SWCD office.

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

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for May 16th, 2024
Butte SWCD office, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Todd Perkes

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: Tori O’Neal – Desert Mountain Grass Fed Beef, Vickie Rainey

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

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the March minutes with the meeting location corrected. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s report. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. A natural resource specialist and an administrative assistant have been hired and should be starting soon. He stated having Tim available to work on engineering plans has been valuable. They have 70 pre- approved EQIP contracts. Dates for upcoming Local Working Group meetings were discussed. Dates for a conservation tour were discussed.

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Timothy Barnes reported working on pipeline tie-in designs. He gained approval to attend an engineering training in August.

Mindy Hawley reported on the Envirothon competition. The Butte SWCD sponsored team placed 6th overall and won the Rookie Award. She had the posters for the poster contest ready for judging.

Stephanie Barnes reported that all the documents for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program awards have been signed. The next step will be the supplemental agreements with the either the conservation district or the contractor. Discussion was made on supplemental agreements. She updated the board on all our open grants and their status. She provided a draft FY24-25 budget to the members and a copy of the Spring newsletter.

Tori O’Neal – Desert Mountain Grass Fed Beef: Tori presented information to the board regarding the University of Idaho’s Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership grant program.

Vickie Rainey: Vickie presented work she has done on the geothermal greenhouses located in Butte City. She also outlined issues she is facing and ideas she has on water recharge.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Natural Resource Camp Scholarship Applications: Mindy presented the scholarship applications received for the University of Idaho's Natural Resource Camp. A motion was made by Todd Perkes to provide a scholarship to the six students who applied. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

IASCD Annual Conference District Items: Walt Johnson presented ideas for an item to include in the registration bags for the annual Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District's conference in November. A motion was made by Todd Perkes, with a second from Walt Johnson to order 300 wooden coins from Crazyfish in Clayton, ID for the conference. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Discussion on design and production timeline will be discussed at the next meeting.

RCPP Landowner Outreach Meetings: Discussion was made on holding an outreach meeting with representatives from the groups awarded Regional Conservation Partnership Program awards so that everyone is on the same page about the projects.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be June 20th at noon at Bottolfson Park in Arco.

A motion was made at 2:26 p.m. by Todd Perks to adjourn, second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for June 20th, 2024
Bottolfsen Park, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Todd Perkes

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer - NRCS

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:14 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the May minutes. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer's report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to sign the checks and accept the treasurer's report. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. A natural resource specialist and an administrative assistant have been hired and will start July 1st. He stated that the NRCS is not interested in putting an engineering position in the Arco office at this time. Discussion was made on the local working group meetings. He stated the NRCS will start doing outreach on behalf of the SWCDs. The next meeting date is set for August 14th at Craters of the Moon visitor center. Jesse stated that that location works best.

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Timothy Barnes reported finishing irrigation system tie-in designs. He has been working on cost-estimates for EQIP applicants. He drafted a logo for the IASCD annual conference coins.

Mindy Hawley gave an update on the Natural Resource Camp. Discussion was made on having a student repay the fee as they cancelled last minute. The student provided a doctor's note so it was agreed not to have them repay the fee. She will be attending the next IASCD annual conference planning meeting on the 24th.

Stephanie Barnes reported that the payroll frequency has been changed to monthly. She has been cleaning out old files in accordance with Idaho's document retention timelines. She updated the board on the Junior Board's activities. The Junior Board is planning to add plants to the pollinator plot on Lost River Avenue. They would like to walk through the Atomic Days parade and hand out candy and informational material. They are also potentially taking down the District's boundary signs for re-painting. Discussion was made on re-painting and options.

Old Business:

IASCD Conference Coins and Logo: The draft logo was reviewed. A motion was made by Todd Perkes with a second from Randy Purser to approve the logo. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Conservation Tour: Discussion was made on the date of the tour to allow for advertisement during Atomic Days. The new date was set for July 24th. Locations will include the Moore pipeline, Lost River pipeline, wildlife fence, and a cheatgrass challenge location.

New Business:

FY 24-25 Budget: Tabled until July. It was requested that another column be put on the draft budget to show last year's totals.

ISWCC District Survey: The District Survey was discussed, completed, and signed.

ISWCC Match Report: Total donations received totaled \$14,605.00. A motion was made by to sign and submit the match report by Todd Perkes, a second by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

TA Grant Working Agreement: Discussion was made on the new TA grant starting July 1st. A new agreement needed to be signed as this grant is a new position focusing on engineering. The salary has increased and the employee will be evaluated according to the NRCS' engineering technician job description. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to sign the new working agreement. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be July 24th immediately following the conservation tour.

A motion was made at 1:48 p.m. by Todd Perks to adjourn, second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for July 24th, 2024
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, David Callister – University of Idaho Extension

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 1:00 p.m.

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

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. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Stephanie Barnes reported that the audit is ongoing, she has provided everything they have requested to date. The auditor will be attending the September board meeting. She conducted the annual Pence Bridge monitoring and is working on the report. She provided a sheet showing the current open grants, the award amounts, award amounts remaining and the committed District match. She updated the board on the Junior Board activities; they added plants to the pollinator plot in Arco, they walked in the Atomic Days parade and handed out flyers with invitations to the conservation tour and upcoming local working group meetings. They also had an informational booth at Atomic Days. Their last meeting will be August 2nd.

Timothy Barnes gave an update on his activities. He has been working on stock tank designs and submitting cultural resource requests. He presented a couple of upcoming training opportunities. He will be attending a spring development training August 13-15th in Pocatello. Two other opportunities are the NRCS Bootcamp in Sandpoint in September and three weeks of on-the-job training with NRCS engineers on the Marysville project. Discussion was made on the value of the Marysville training, expense, and time commitment.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to have Timothy complete three weeks of on-the-job training on the Marysville project with the schedule and sideboards deemed necessary by Jesse Fullmer. The District will pay hotel and meals. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was to not send Timothy to the NRCS Bootcamp by Walt Johnson with a second from Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Mindy Hawley completed the beaver dam analog monitoring, there is one more year of monitoring left on that project. She will be attending the August 5th IASCD annual conference planning meeting. Discussion was made on attending the Project WET training in Idaho Falls on August 12th. The cost to attend is \$50.

A motion was made by Mark Telford to send Mindy to the Project WET training. Todd Perkes seconded. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. The obligation deadline is in August. They moved the start time of the August 14th local working group meeting to 9am. He has reserved the Craters of the Moon meeting room and will check with Blaine SWCD about providing lunch. They have contracted 100 miles of wildlife friendly fence. Possibly two more positions will be announced for the Arco office; a range management specialist and a resource conservationist.

UI Extension: David Callister gave an update on the meetings and trainings he has attended and taught this summer. The Butte County Fair will be August 5th- 10th. He gave an update on Palmer amaranth and water hemlock's presence in Idaho. Discussion was made on the Butte County weed department and the issues with hiring help.

Old Business:

IASCD Conference Coins and Logo: The coins have been ordered.

Local Working Group Meeting: Discussed above.

New Business:

Project WET Attendance: Discussed above.

FY 24-25 Budget: The draft FY 24-25 budget was reviewed.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to approve the budget. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Fall Division Meeting: The Butte SWCD is hosting the Fall Division VI Meeting on October 16th. Discussion was made on location and meal choices.

Election Filing: Election filing forms were provided to Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, and will be mailed to Hayden Isham.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date was set for August 14th at the USDA Service Center in Arco immediately following the local working group meeting.

A motion was made to enter executive session at 2:31 p.m. by Todd Perkes. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made to leave the executive session at 3:35 p.m. by Walt Johnson. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

The board decided to revoke the TA position working agreement signed in the June meeting. The salary will stay the same and will be revisited in October.

The board decided to move the District's office back into the NRCS office.

A motion was made at 3:45 p.m. by Walt Johnson to adjourn, second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Todd Perkes, Mark Telford. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for August 14th, 2024
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Walt Johnson, Randy Purser, Todd Perkes (via telephone)

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes, Mindy Hawley

Guests Present: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, David Callister – University of Idaho Extension, Brian Reed – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Dana Izatt – Searle Hart and Associates

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 2:23 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the July minutes. A second was made by Randy Purser. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None.

Motion Approved.

Stephanie Barnes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed. A motion was made by Randy Purser to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s report. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Audit Report:

Dana Izatt with Searle Hart and Associates was in attendance to give an overview of the FY23-24 audit. Copies were provided to the board members. Discussion was made on what will be needed for auditing federal funding on the next audit.

Partner Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Mindy Hawley reported that she attended the Project WET training and gave an overview. She will be doing the Cheatgrass Challenge monitoring in September. The 6th grade natural resources tour will be in September and potential dates were discussed. Discussion was made on when to hold the District level speech contest.

Timothy Barnes provided a written activity report as he was attending Spring Development Training in Pocatello. Discussion was made on sending him to the NRCS Bootcamp in September.

A motion was made by Randy Purser to pay for Tim’s room and board and to count the time spent at bootcamp as work hours. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Stephanie Barnes reported that she has finished the Pence Bridge monitoring report, the Blaine County Canal Company final report for the DEQ report has been submitted and payment is in

process, a reimbursement request has been sent into the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for a wildlife fence project, the year 5 NACD TA grant has been closed and Year 6 opened.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. EQIP contracting is done. They have around 100 EQIP contracts totaling \$8.3 million and 7 CSP contracts totaling \$500,000. The 2025 sign-up has been announced with a deadline of October 4th. Discussion was made on changes to how the NRCS is doing big water projects. The Arco office has new employees. Jesse will put together an informational handout on the water savings and benefits of pipelines. Discussion was made on winter meeting topics.

A review of the RCPP Burnett Irrigation Ditch Supplemental Agreement documents was conducted by the board.

A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the Supplemental Agreement with a second from Randy Purser. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

UI Extension: David Callister provided an overview of the County Fair. He said it was the best animal sale they have ever had. He said the High Divide Collaborative may have funding for small water conservation projects in the future. They are hiring an assistant in their office. Discussion was made on IAMP. September 3rd will be a cover crop demonstration in Custer County.

ISWCC: Brian Reed presented the Commission's August newsletter. George Hitz is the new deputy administrator. They will be backfilling George's position in the future.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

RCPP Supplemental Agreement: Discussed above.

Technical Assistance Grant Renewal: Discussion was made on applying for another year of TA funding. It was agreed to apply for \$72,000 to be utilized for salary with an \$18,000 match from the Districts. We will ask Blaine SWCD to help with the match again for this application. No specifications were made on how many employees or for what role in the NRCS office. Stephanie will start the application and get specifics on contract numbers and program percentages from Jesse.

Administrative Assistant Position and Office Move:

A motion was made to enter executive session at 4:00 p.m. by Walt Johnson. A second was made by Randy Purser. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made to leave the executive session at 4:25 p.m. by Randy Purser. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

The board wrote a rent check on the current District office for September. An advertisement for an administrative assistant position will be ran for two weeks in the Arco Advertiser with a deadline to apply of September 6th.

Next Meeting Date and the 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour: Discussion was made on potential meeting dates and will be confirmed once the date for the 6th Grade Natural Resources Tour is set.

A motion was made at 4:25 p.m. by Walt Johnson to adjourn, second was made by Randy Purser. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**