

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 13-15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> IASCD annual conference planning meeting. Discussion was made on attending the Project WET training in Idaho Falls on August 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**