

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.**