

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

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

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes

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

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 October minutes with the corrected date. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, 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 report. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Monthly Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Mindy Hawley attended the IASCD conference and helped with the registration table. Josiah Cecil won the speech contest.

Stephanie Barnes discussed upcoming 1099s for participants who received grant funding in 2024. She will send the information to Hansen Business Service in Challis for them to issue the 1099s. The Fall newsletter was e-mailed to the board earlier and discussion was made on providing information to the public regarding the irrigation pipeline projects in the valley and their positive impact on groundwater and surface water. The tentative date for the winter meeting was shared and confirmed speakers. An update was given on the WQPA contract, we are still waiting on a bid for the project. Stephanie reminded the board to fill out their mileage logs for reimbursement checks.

Timothy Barnes provided a summary of his time spent at the Marysville project. He has been working on designs from survey data collected earlier this year. He is working with NRCS staff to provide energy calculations for EQIP applications.

Todd Perkes provided a summary of the IASCD conference and the IAMP program. He invited Tori O’Neal to the board meeting to discuss IAMP, but she had to reschedule for the January meeting.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. An update on the Inflation Reduction Act funds. The Farm bill payment limitations has been removed and the project limit for Water Management Entities has been raised. They will be interviewing for a pathways student. The resource conservationist and range conservationist positions will be re-flown. No word on the Arco engineering positions. Discussion was made on the diesel engine replacement and soil carbon amendment programs.

UI Extension: David Callister has been receiving negotiation training for land leases. He attended a ranch succession class. They will be having a water informational meeting on January 17th and start a gardening class on January 30th.

ISWCC: Brian Reed provided copies of the latest newsletter. Gave an update on WQPA and the website they are building to better communicate the projects accomplished through WQPA with the legislators. Performance reports are due December 20th.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Administrative Assistant Position: Applications were reviewed and interviews will be conducted early December.

Producer, Contractor, and Partner of the Year Awards: The NRCS staff served as the committee for choosing the Contractor, Producer, and Partner of the Year Awards. The 2024 selections were Rumsey Engineering for Contractor of the Year, Todd Stefanic of the National Park Service as Partner of the Year, and Derek Nichols as the Producer of the Year. Winners will be invited and honored at the annual meeting in December. Discussion was made to order plaques for the winners in addition to providing a District hat.

Grant Writing Fees: Discussion was made on fees for grant writing.

A motion was made by Mark Telford that grants submitted for landowners that will be under the Butte SWCD's name must have an active NRCS contract for the same project. The rate for grant writing will be \$1,000 minimum and \$25/hour after that. A second was provided by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Cheatgrass Challenge Workshop Support: Tabled until January.

ISWCC Annual Performance Report: A motion was made to approve and submit the annual performance report by Mark Telford with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Golden West Café.

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