

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

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

Staff Present: Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Timothy Barnes

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:15 p.m.

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

Todd Perkes presented the treasurer’s report and checks to be signed, including the \$400.00 invoice from Desert Stop for the division VI meeting meal. 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, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Monthly Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Mindy Hawley will be attending and helping with the IASCD conference in November.

Stephanie Barnes gave an overview of the Division VI meeting and expenses. She reported attending the final inspection with DEQ staff for the Blaine County Canal Company pipeline grant. The NRCS’ Regional Conservation Partnership Program contact has left the agency and they are looking for a replacement. She gave an update on the payroll service fee expenses with moving the TA grant employee back to the bi-weekly payroll schedule. Discussion was made on the credit card limit and an explanation was given to why several payments were made this month to allow for an entire purchase of seeds for an upcoming grant. The District’s support letter for an engineer hub located in Arco was submitted to the NRCS. The central registry information has been submitted. The new NACD technical assistance grant was submitted and we should know if we’re funded by January. The quarterly report for the current TA grant was submitted. The Idaho Grassman of the Year nomination was submitted. The next 5-year plan is due to the ISWCC in March and this will be the big overhaul of the plan and will run from 2025-2030. An updated sheet showing all open grants and remaining funds for each was provided with the board meeting handouts.

A motion was made by Mark Telford to raise the credit card limit to \$3,000. Hayden Isham made a second. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Timothy Barnes provided a sheet of accomplishments from his year of employment with the District; assisted with construction inspections and as-build documentation, engineering analysis to support processing applications; and worked on designs. The biggest design project was the Aikele designs. Fall activities have been surveying and collecting data for design work this winter. Discussion was made on attending the Division IV meeting and it was agreed Tim should attend. He let the board know that his first week of training at the Marysville project will be in November.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. A summary of funding for the State and the local team was provided. They will be re-flying the range conservationist position. The engineering hub in Arco request was not successful and if engineering positions are ever listed for Arco it will be at least a year before that is expected to take place. Discussion was made on the diesel engine replacement and soil carbon amendment programs. The NRCS office submitted the local working group recommendations and ranking questions to the state office.

UI Extension: David Callister will be meeting with the advisory committee to determine educational topics for the coming year. He has been busy with farm stress management courses. There will be upcoming pesticide certification credits, ranch succession, forage, cereal, and economic outlook classes locally and statewide that producers can participate in.

Old Business:

IASCD Conference Attendance: Discussion was made on who would be attending and hotels.

A motion was made by Hayden Isham with a second from Mark Telford to send Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mindy Hawley, and Stephanie Barnes to the IASCD conference. A check was written to cover the cost of registration. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

New Business:

Administrative Assistant Position: An offer was made and declined. Discussion was made during executive session.

Producer, Contractor, and Partner of the Year Awards: Discussion was made on the annual meeting. It was decided that the annual meeting will be held at Golden West Café on December 11th at 6:00 p.m. Discussion was made on budget and number of invitations to send out. The NRCS office will act as the selection committee for the producer, contractor, and partner of the year awards and will have nominations ready for the November board meeting.

3-in-1 Pipeline Grant Application: The District has been approached to help the 3-in-1 water users submit an aging infrastructure grant application.

A motion was made by Mark Telford with a second from Hayden Isham to work on the grant application. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held November 21st at noon at the NRCS office.

A motion was made to enter executive session at 1:40 p.m. by Mark Telford. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made to leave the executive session at 2:45 p.m. by Walt Johnson. A second was made by Mark Telford. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to re-advertise for the administrative assistant position. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Mark Telford with a second from Hayden Isham to extend Tim Barnes' employment for another year with a \$6,000 raise, starting at the next payroll. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson, Mark Telford, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

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