

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for September 26th, 2024
USDA Service Center, Arco, Idaho

Board Present: Hayden Isham, Randy Purser, Todd Perkes

Staff Present: 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 12:20 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Hayden Isham to approve the August minutes. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, 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 Hayden Isham to sign the checks and accept the treasurer’s report. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Monthly Reports:

Butte SWCD Employees and Board:

Stephanie Barnes reported that she sent out a draft Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan required for TA grant submission. She completed the Fall DEQ grant monitoring. The District was awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation for making seed mixes. She has been working with Todd on getting information ready for the central registry submission. She gave a report on how well the 6th grade tour went.

Timothy Barnes provided a report on his NRCS Bootcamp attendance. He has been doing inspections of completed projects and surveying future project locations.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer gave an update on NRCS activities. The USDA fiscal year is closing and a continuing resolution is in progress. Anticipating a continuation of current farm bill with a one year reset of payment limitations. They received a WaterSmart grant for the Moore Canal. The RCPP-supplemental agreement is pending cultural resources review that could take 60-90 days. Existing irrigation ditches may be considered a cultural resource. Randy reviewed the liability of the District in the RCPP process. His main takeaways were that we only make payments after the NRCS has fully approved and signed off on practices. We also cannot have RCPP funds go into an interest-bearing bank account. Jesse is hoping for the final engineering design on the Blaine County Canal Company’s RCPP project in October. Then we will be able to complete their supplemental agreement. The Arco NRCS office is expecting more job announcements soon. Discussion was made on the District submitting a letter of support for locating an

engineering hub in the Arco NRCS office. The EQIP deadline in October 4th. Discussion was made on what practices can be funded under NRCS programs.

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to sign the local working group recommendations. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

UI Extension: David Callister participated in the District's 6th grade tour. He will be participating in farm stress management classes in Twin Falls. He has two new hires in his office. He is looking into providing pesticide certification license training classes in Arco.

ISWCC: Brian Reed presented the Commission's latest newsletter. He provided an update on the Commission's budget. The match payments will be sent out in November. The annual performance report is due December 20th. Discussion was made on the Water Quality Program for Agriculture.

Old Business:

TA Grant Renewal: Deadline moved to October 7th. Discussion was made on what could be paid for with the grant award. NRCS activities can be paid for with the grant, but strictly District activities such as bookkeeping and fulfilling commission requirements cannot be funded by the grant. Jesse stated the need for a summer helper funded through the grant has diminished as NRCS staff have been able to keep up with the workload.

New Business:

IASCD Conference Door Prize Request: The board decided to donate a stockmanship manual and \$25 toward the door prize fund for the annual IASCD conference in November. A check was written for the \$25.

Administrative Assistant Position: Several applications were received for the administrative assistant position. Interviews will be October 8th.

New Working Agreements: Tabled.

Division IV and IASCD Conference Attendance: Discussion was made on attendance at the Division IV meeting in Howe. Annual conference registration forms and agendas were provided to the board.

Idaho Grassman Award Nomination: Jesse suggested Chris Flanigan for the District's Idaho Grassman Award Nomination. Stephanie will work with Chris and Jesse to write the nomination.

Next Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be held October 24th at noon at the NRCS office.

A motion was made to enter executive session at 2:00 p.m. by Todd Perkes. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made to leave the executive session at 2:20 p.m. by Todd Perkes. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

A motion was made by Todd Perkes to hire Stephanie Barnes as a grant writer for 20 hours/week at \$20/hour. Mindy Hawley's pay rate will also raise to \$20/hour starting October 1st. A second was made by Hayden Isham. Voting Aye: Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, and Todd Perkes. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

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