

ADAMS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
203 South Galena St. P.O. Box 26 Council, Idaho 83612
Chairman: Wendy Green Phone: 208-253-4668

Board Meeting Minutes

- Date, Time, Location:** July 10, 2024; 6 PM; at office and via Zoom
- Present:** Chairman Wendy Green; Supervisor Julie Burkhardt; Supervisor Judy Dietch; Supervisor Charles Munden; Supervisor Kris Stone
- Others Present:** Admin Assistant Holden McKee; Meghan Brooksher ISWCC via Zoom; Ron Brooks NRCS; Rhonda Guerrant via Zoom
- Call to Order:** Wendy called the meeting to order @ 5:59 PM
- Approval of Agenda:** Julie moved to approve the July 10, 2024 Agenda. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.
- Approval of Minutes:** Charles moved to approve the June 12, 2024 Minutes. Kris seconded the motion and the board approved.
- New Business (Action):**
- Bookkeeping Options:** Rhonda Guerrant via Zoom offered to do the bookkeeping services for the district. They currently do the bookkeeping for the Weiser River SWCD. They would handle payroll, payables, quarterly returns, bank reconciliation, and any other reports needed for the district. Their services would cost \$525/month, but they would adapt to charging per hour. The board would like to get ask QuickBooks about transferring our

account and Wendy is hoping to get a firm quote from another CPA firm.

Miscellaneous Business (Non Action):

ISWCC Report:

Meghan reported that the ISWCC reviewed 51 WQPA applications in which the top ranked 14 projects were fully funded and the 15th ranked project will be partially funded. The ASWCD WQPA Little Salmon River Riparian Fencing project was approved and was ranked #1 out of all 51 projects.

The district reviewed the ISWCC contract and the district's responsibilities that are listed. Some of those responsibilities are to provide technical assistance, submit financial and progress reports, submit a water quality plan, etc. The ASWCD decided to review the contract more thoroughly and contact the landowners in the project. As such the district will schedule another meeting on 7-17-2024 at 6PM via Zoom to discuss and approve the contract.

Meghan also reported that George Hitz will be the new deputy Administrator in the ISWCC. The districts should also be receiving their base funding allocation from the ISWCC this month.

NRCS Report:

Ron Brooks reported that 3 EQIP projects (2 forestry & 1 irrigation) totaling \$300,000 in Adams County were approved. The landowners in the WQPA Little Salmon project have submitted NRCS EQIP project applications involving offsite livestock water and irrigation systems. There was also a CSP application submitted by a landowner

in Adams County regarding fencing and weed control.

IASCD Director's Report:

There has been issues in hiring employees/contractors in administering the Climate Smart grant with the University of Idaho.

CWMA Spray Days:

The community spray days are done for now due to the heat. They are hoping to schedule some community spray days in the fall. They also have received a lot of positive evaluations from the weed tour.

Mining Update

Holden attended the recent Hercules Metal town hall in Cambridge, Idaho. They wanted to update the community of their mining exploration project and to answer any questions. In the meeting they discussed how their reclamation process of drill sites and how much water they use for each drill.

In regard to water usage, they use about 300 gallons a day per drill. They also have a water recycling system to save as much water as possible. When they are done drilling they have a reclamation process in which to try to match the original topography of the site. They will plug the drill hole, reseed the area, and monitor the site up to three years. They reseed the area with a seed mix of Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Idaho Fescue, Basin Wildrye, Squirreltail Grass, Penstemon spp., and Rocky Mountain Beeplant at 20 lbs to the acre. The reclamation is considered a success if the vegetative cover is 70% after three years. If it's less than 70% they will reseed the area again and monitor the site another year.

There are several other mining exploration companies in the area as well. These projects could eventually lead into Adams County as well.

Old Business (Action):

Partners Report:

Charles did put the Shared Stewardship signs back up

No Till Drill Updates:

Veselkas have scheduled to use the no till drill this summer.

CERC:

Kris did bee surveys and water quality testing with the CERC crew. They did bee surveys at four locations which were Horse Mountain Lookout, Sheep Rock, near Shingle Flat campground, and Bench Creek. The most bees captured were at the Bench Creek with 17 bees captured.

The crew did water quality testing at five locations. Two of the locations were along the Little Salmon at Kroll & Wilbur properties, Weiser River at Council bridge, East fork of Weiser River at Shingle Flat bridge, and East fork of Weiser River at Joker Creek.

Kris reported that E Coli tested high at the sites. The water quality testing index numbers at each site were Wilbur property 74 (good), Kroll property 76 (good), East Fork Shingle Flat Bridge 89 (Good+), Weiser River Council Bridge 78 (Good), East Fork at Joker Creek 88 (Good+).

New Business (Action):

Air Quality:

Tabled for another meeting but if you want more information Wendy said to look up Purple Air.

Financial/Match Report: Holden prepared the Financial/Match Report to submit to the ISWCC. The district received \$23,728.20 in funding from the ISWCC in FY 2023/2024. The district spent \$71,838.58 in personnel, operations, and district conservation projects in FY 2023/2023. The utilization rate for FY 2023/2024 was 3.03. Julie moved to approve and submit the Financial/Match Report. Judy seconded the motion and the board approved.

WQPA Application update: The ASWCD WQPA application was approved and discussed in the ISWCC report.

IDWR/Thorn Creek Update: IDWR has the flood management grants on the agenda for 7-16-2024. The district should know if their project was approved before the next meeting.

Ben Ross Canal: Julie asked if the district could help her and the irrigation district to fix the Ben Ross Canal next to her house. It is currently eroding part of her property and causing damage. Approximately 2,000 feet of the canal would need to be worked on. Brian Davis of NRCS said there is a water management program with NRCS that you can apply for, but applications are due in February.

The board also discussed the East Fork ditch repair project. They are interested in pursuing a grant to fund the project. It will cost about \$3,000 for material to make the box and someone is willing to do the labor for free. Meghan mentioned that IDWR application project deadline on August 2nd and a possible second deadline in December.

No Till Drill cards: The district discussed ordering more no till drill cards but decided to make them ourselves.

Treasurer's Report (Action):

Main/CWMA Accounts: The main account balance is \$48,191.83 and the CWMA balance is \$1,703.77. Judy moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kris seconded the motion and the board approved.

Closing Remarks:

Items for July Agenda: University of Idaho Rangeland forum, Air Quality, WQPA update, IDWR update, Bookkeeping, OX fieldtrip

Next regular meeting will be July 10th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom/Office

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Holden McKee