

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 12, 2023; 6:00 PM; on Zoom

Present: Chairman Wendy Green; Supervisor Judy Dietch;
Supervisor Charles Munden; Supervisor Kris Stone

Others Present: Admin Assistant Holden McKee; Joe Petersen
ISWCC; Bill Lillibridge ISWCC

Call to Order: Wendy called the meeting to order @ 6:00 PM

Approval of Agenda (Action): Charles moved to approve the agenda for July 12, 2023 meeting. Judy seconded the motion and the board approved.

Approval of Minutes (Action): Judy asked for corrections in the June 14, 2023 minutes in which the board reviewed the suggested grammar corrections. Judy then moved to approve the June 14, 2023 minutes with corrections. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

Misc Business (Non-Action):

ISWCC Report: Joe Petersen reported that the ISWCC commissioners in their June 22nd meeting approved 49 out of 80 submitted projects for WQPA funding. There were project applications submitted from 43 of the 50 districts. Each district that submitted a project got at least one approved. 319 projects applications are due July 14th; the ASWCD submitted the Thorn Creek project.

IDWR infrastructure grant application is due August 4th and December 1st of this year. The ISWCC survey is due July 31st and the Financial/Match reports are due August 16th. The districts should be getting their district allocation match grants before the end of July.

Bill Lillibridge reported he is currently working on 319 projects and will start working on construction projects in north Idaho. He is hoping to get to Calvin Filmore property in Adams County next week to evaluate a project. Bill and Meghan will be working on planting projects in Meadows Valley (Little Salmon) that will be done this fall.

NRCS Report:

Ron Brooks didn't attend the meeting but, need email a summary of recent NRCS updates. The email states:

"I am unable to attend the board meeting this evening. I have a meeting in Twin Falls and another after that one that requires my attendance. I wanted to provide an update to you all on the current status of NRCS activities in Adams county since I last reported to you. Due to some additional funding that recently arrived, we will now have 6 approved EQIP contracts in Adams County. 4 of them are forestry projects totaling about \$50K. 1 is a rangeland project for livestock water, fencing, grazing, etc...and will be approximately \$190K. The other is for irrigated hay and pastureland with livestock components and will be approximately \$330K. So the grand total will be about \$570K in EQIP funds to Adams in fiscal year 2023. Very glad our efforts to obtain more funding paid off!"

Old Business (Action):

Shared Stewardship Update: No new updates regarding Shared Stewardship

New Business (Action):

Thorn Creek Project: Meghan has amended and submitted the Thorn Creek project as 319 Project. Wendy would like the board to be more prepared on project applications and not submit them at the last minute. She also would like Holden to put together a “Go to” file for project applications that have all the contact information and other relevant information (tax ID #s, etc) that all projects will need.

ISWCC Survey: The ISWCC Survey consisted of two questions and a comment section. The first question was is, “Our Board is satisfied with the services and programs provided by the Commission over the past fiscal year”? The board answered as agree. The second question is, “Our Board is satisfied with the effectiveness of the communication received from the Commission over the past fiscal year”? The board answered the question as agree.

The next section was the comment section in which the board will submit these comments:

- The ASWCD appreciates the support that the ISWCC staff provides for the district. Bill Lillibridge, Joe Petersen and Meghan Brookshire communicate well and take initiative in trying to meet the needs of the ASWCD.

- The ASWCD would strongly encourage the ISWCC to hire more engineers. Bill Lillibridge is

great to work with, but he does not have time to help as needed. We have half-a-dozen landowners who have been waiting for a year for assistance with irrigation infrastructure improvements, streambank stabilization, etc.. We rely on ISWCC for technical support, and having one engineer to cover the entire state, or even the entire western half of the state, is not sufficient or sustainable. It does not reflect well on ASWCD or ISWCC when landowners have to wait interminable periods for assistance. Needed conservation work is not getting done, even though landowners are willing and eager to do so.

Judy moved to approve and submit the ISWCC Survey. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

Floor/Bathroom Upgrade:

Wendy hasn't received feedback from the county about bidding to buy and install bathroom upgrades at the district office. Currently the district office's old flooring has been taken out but there is a delay with installing the new flooring. Judy recommended approving the bathroom expenditure so there is no delay. The board agreed that is a good idea. Judy moved to allocate \$1,000 for bathroom upgrades at the district office. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

Policies & Next Steps:

Judy asked to correct the Meeting policy in the pre-meeting and special meeting sections. The board would like to schedule another special meeting to create more district policies. The board believes it's more productive to schedule a special meeting to create policies. The board will schedule that meeting at the August 9th meeting.

CERC:

The CERC crew started work for the ASWCD this week. On Monday they couldn't do water quality testing due to working on bee surveys. They caught 48 bees which took the day to process. Last year they only caught 12 bees total at two different locations (9 at one location & 3 at another).

Tuesday the CERC crew, Judy, & Charles pulled weeds along east fork road for about 3.5 miles. They pulled enough weeds to fill a truck bed full of weeds. They also visited the fish screen that was near the area. Wednesday (Today) the CERC crew went to Lick Creek and did road surveys for bees. They only caught one bee near the meadow at Lick Creek.

Idaho Ag Summit:

The board decided not to nominate anyone for the Idaho Ag Summit.

No Till Drill:

Matt Gabica brought his 12 ft no till drill to Indian Valley to talk and demonstrate the drill. The farmers who were there were impressed and the ASWCD is interested in purchasing a no till drill. A no till drill costs about \$46,000, so the district would need a grant or partners to help with the costs. Charlie Veslka of NRCS told Wendy that he has been getting more inquiries about what access there is to no till drills from Council, ID to Weiser, ID.

Joe stated that the best grant to help purchase a no till drill are 319 or BMP grants. Joe also said he could give the district data that shows the benefits no till drills have. Valley SWCD does not have a no till drill to rent but has a smaller drill (5ft).

IASCD Update & Directors Report: Wendy updated the board that Kyle Rooks will be leaving the IASCD. The IASCD is reviewing applications for the executive director position. The Ada SWCD is helping the IASCD with administrative duties.

The IASCD is the lead partner with the University of Idaho in regard to the Climate Smart Grant. The Climate Smart grant is a project to help farmers implement BMPs. The grant total \$55 million that was rewarded to the University of Idaho

Division III of the IASCD will be hosting the annual conference this year in Boise from November 7th to November 9th. Division III held a planning meeting on June 30th and has another scheduled July 18th. Wendy asked the board if they had any ideas or activities the IASCD should do at the annual conference.

Supervisor Recruitment:

Julie Burkhardt is ready to retire from the ASWCD and the board is looking for a new board member. The board would like the new member to be an ag producer from New Meadows area. The board discussed possible names to inquire about and will need to reach out more.

Treasurer's Report:

Holden reported that he will start working on the financial and match report which is due August 16th to the ISWCC. He reported that the main account balance is \$84,914.64 and the CWMA account balance is \$1,772.94.

Holden then gave an update on the forestry tour accounting. The board had an income of \$680 in registration dues but had \$1,092.74 in total expenses. He also clarified to the board that he

will start a new item in the bookkeeping for the forestry tour income. Judy moved to approve the Treasurers Report. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

New Business:

Office Desk Purchase:

The board discussed buying a new office desk for the office. The board decided to wait until next month to approve and for Holden to do more research shopping. The district recommended finding a desk that cost up to \$500.

Closing Remarks:

Items for August Agenda:

Financial/Match Reports, No Till Drill, Office Desk, Water Jet Stinger components, & setting policy meeting date

Next regular meeting will be August 9th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom & Office

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Holden McKee