

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:** March 8, 2023; 6:00 PM; District office & Zoom
- Present:** Chairman Wendy Green; Supervisor Judy Dietch via Zoom; Supervisor Charles Munden; Supervisor Julie Burkhardt via Zoom; Supervisor Kris Stone
- Others Present:** Admin Assistant Holden McKee; Bill Lillibridge ISWCC via Zoom; Meghan Brooksher ISWCC via Zoom; Brian Davis IDL via Zoom; Heather Hayes Intermountain Bird Observatory via Zoom, Brittni Brown Forest Service via Zoom.
- Call to Order:** Wendy called the meeting to order @ 6:02 PM
- Approval of Agenda (Action):** Judy requested to add Water Stinger and Planning & Zoning reports to the agenda under Old Business. Charles moved to approve the March 8, 2023, meeting agenda with the additions, Kris seconded the motion, and the board approved.
- Approval of Minutes (Action):** Charles moved to approve the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes, Kris seconded the motion, and the board approved.
- Misc Business (Non-Action):**
- ISWCC Report:** Meghan reported that the WQPA is being held up in the legislature. They will not know if it will be approved until the end of March. They expect if approved that the Commission will accept applications from May 1st to May 31st. The State

Ag BMP program through DEQ are accepting applications from March 15th to April 15th.

All of the ISWCC commissioner positions are now filled with two new additions. The new commissioners are Mitch Silvers representing Division II and Blake Hollingsworth representing “at large”.

NRCS Report:

Ron Brooks didn’t attend the meeting.

Old Business (Action):

Shared Stewardship Update: Charles reported that he will attend the shared stewardship meeting on 3-9-2023 at 11 AM at IDL. They will discuss the forestry tour to have this year. While discussing the forestry tour Wendy also mentioned that Idaho Fish & Wildlife has been given forestry funds and asked what they could do in our district. Wendy asked them if they would like to also be involved in the forestry tour.

Brian Davis updated the district that IDL has had some personnel changes. Some employees have left but they hired Sam Whitel to work with Shared Stewardship. She is originally from New Meadows, ID.

IDL has acquired an additional \$150,000 for the Highway 95 project in Circle C. They discussed what other landowners they would like to reach out to see if they are interested. They are hoping that Northwest Management will help with outreach. If they can find 12 to 13 more properties, they will actually have more treatment than have funds for. When they do find interested landowners they will start doing site visits and

prescription layouts of the properties. IDL was able to secure another \$100,000 from the state wide shared stewardship fund in which an additional \$50,000 was applied to their contract with Northwest Management. Brian is hoping to schedule a quarterly meeting in regards to the Highway 95 project soon.

The Forest Service signed the Brush Mountain Project which included “Wyden authority”. Wyden authority allows the Forest Service to fund projects on private property if they did a NEPA analysis. There is about 9,000 acres of private property in the Brush Mountain Project. They hope they can get private landowners involved but this project does include more requirements, which could influence some landowners not choosing to be involved.

The BLM has finished the layout for the Happy Trails project and the bidding will start this spring. Brian is concerned on if they will get any bids. He also is hoping to get all the individuals involved in all the shared stewardship projects and make a 1 to 3 year plan to make them happen. He is also hoping to schedule a field trip in June and tour the demo sites and other shared stewardship projects in Adams County. He wants to invite county commissioners, mayors, city council members, chamber of commerce, fire chiefs, etc to come on the field trip.

New Business (Action):

CERC Crew:

The Forest Service hires/schedules the CERC crew from eight to nine weeks in the summer. The ASWCD usually has hired them for about a week

each summer. Brittni Brown presented to the board the cost of having the CERC crew work this summer. The CERC crews operates in 4 day work week but can work a 5 day work week if scheduled. The CERC crew do get paid overtime if they work over 8 hours a day. For the crew to work a 10 hour day it will cost \$947.32/day and a eight hour day it will cost \$688.96 day. This board discussed what type of work they want the CERC crew to do. They discussed pulling med sage, water quality testing, pollinator surveys, and maybe have them do forestry work.

Train the Trainer:

Heather Hayes who works for the Intermountain Bird Observatory is hoping to schedule at least 20 individual to come to a “Train the Trainer” workshop. The workshop will be presented by Lauri Adams (Idaho Fish & Wildlife) with her “Flying Wild” bird presentation. The presentation is to teach individuals about birds/curlews and how to teach about them to others. She is hoping to do the workshop in May or June

Heather also will be hosting a presentation and filed trips about curlews. There will be a virtual presentation on April 20th at 6 PM. She plans to hold field trips on April 21, 22nd, and 29th

Old Business (Action):

P&Z / Water Jet Stinger:

Judy attended the Adams County planning & zoning meeting in which the majority of the meeting was on split variances and right of ways vacations. For the most part much of the meeting wasn't issues the district would be involved in. The next meeting there will be a discussion on a conditional use permit for a brewing group that

may have water issues. Judy will attend the next meeting in April.

Judy reported that Larry has built the water jet stinger except for the tip that has to be manufactured. Judy asked if the board would like a second water jet stinger built and the board agreed.

New Business (Action):

No Till Drill:

Charles attended the Valley SWCD grant application presentation to fund their purchase of a no till drill. The no till drill they would like to purchase is only 5 ft, which will make it easier to transport and share the drill. Charles reported that they had a good presentation. Meghan said that Valley SWCD will be notified by the first week of April if they are awarded the grant or not.

Annual/5yr Plan:

Wendy made corrections to the annual/5 year plan and added a Forestry section. The board reviewed the section and approved it. Wendy will submit the Plan and certification to ISWCC.

Scholarship Applications:

The board received 5 scholarship applications from students from Council High School. Only one scholarship (Sam Tharp) met the qualifications. Applicants must be planning to pursue agriculture or natural science in college. Kris moved to award a \$1,000 scholarship to Sam Tharp. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved. After more discussion though, the board decided they would want to interview Sam Tharp first before awarding the scholarship. As such Kris moved to vacate the previous motion, Charles seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Kris will contact Sam Tharp to schedule the interview.

Treasurer's Report:

Holden reported that the Main Account Balance is \$89,653.36 and that the CWMA balance had no significant changes. Holden did inform the board that the \$500 contribution check for the Payette Forest Coalition wasn't received. He will wait until Friday and if they didn't receive it, he will do a stop pay and reissue a new check.

Holden did inform the board that the IDEA dues for 2023 were due. The dues are \$60/year but the board last year gave \$75. The board agreed to send another \$75 for the 2023 dues. Charles moved to approve the Treasurers report and IDEA dues. Kris seconded that motion and the board approved.

Closing Remarks:

Items for April Agenda:

The board discussed what items could be on the April 2023 Agenda. They would like to have Kiani Ziola from DEQ, Bill Lillibridge give an update on projects, Scholarship interview with Sam Tharp, water quality, CERC crew, 2023/2024 budget, possible grants for culverts/flood mitigation.

Next meeting will be April 12th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom & Office

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Holden McKee