

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: January 11, 2023; 6:00 PM; District office & Zoom

Present: Chairman Wendy Green; Supervisor Judy Dietch;
Supervisor Charles Munden; Supervisor Julie Burkhardt
via Zoom; Supervisor Kris Stone was absent

Others Present: Admin Assistant Holden McKee; Daren Ward Adams
County Commissioner

Call to Order: Wendy called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes (Action): Charles moved to approve the December 2022 meeting minutes, Judy seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Misc Business (Non-Action):

Adams County Commissioner- Daren Ward: Daren Ward is the new Adams County Commissioner, and he was invited to the ASWCD meeting. He came to learn about how the district operates and how the county can work with the ASWCD. He does have an agriculture background from when he grew up on a family farm of 1,500 acres. His main background is in law enforcement in Canyon County and he also served in the Navy for nine years.

The board explained that the county provides this office space for the ASWCD and allocates \$4,000 in funds to

the district annually. The board explained how districts are funded and noted that supervisors are unpaid elected officials whose authorities and responsibilities are spelled out in the state statute.

The legislature created the districts to operate at the local level. The districts partner with NRCS (Federal agency), ISWCC (State agency), and other local agencies or governments like the county. The ASWCD isn't a regulatory agency; it is here to help provide technical and financial support to local landowners to implement conservation projects in the district. The district has outreach programs with schools to educate kids about conservation.

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) Report: Joe reported that legislative session started on 1/9/2023 and that the WQPA funding wasn't included in the Governor's budget. They aren't worried since it wasn't in his first budget last year and later it got passed in the legislature. They should know no later than March about WQPA funding from the legislature. Joe announced that the Legislative social is on 1/16/2023 and the Legislative display day is on 1/17/2023 and asked if we would like to attend.

Joe reported that Ada district hasn't had another meeting yet. As such there is no new information on the no till drill. The district has interest, but it would depend on the size and cost of the no till drill. Joe will get a cost for us and tell them we are interested.

Joe then presented a RCRDP loan program application that is in Indian Valley on Hog Flat Lane. The loan is to input a pivot that will irrigate approximately 100 acres of land. The irrigation water is from a ground water well and will operate with solar panels and generators. The

board will discuss if they will support this project at the next meeting.

Bill Lillibridge was unable to attend but did send this update by email for the board: "I spoke with Kraig Spelman about projects. He says he is having an issue with the Middle Fork Weiser/White Licks bridge – they ordered a square bridge instead of a skew (the current one is skew). We will likely have a planning call with IDWR to figure out what to do. He might be able to do a swap with another road group.

We talked about having shovel-ready projects. Road rocking is a fairly easy way for DEQ and WQPA to utilize end-of-grant money that has been returned. Returned money, either from projects being under budget or being cancelled, is not uncommon. DEQ often has money in November they need spent out. We talked about 319 and WQPA money targeting TMDL work, and he said he will come up with a list of roads that might need rock work along creeks. We should probably make sure they correspond to impaired sediment waterbody segments. He's going to try to come up with a unit cost for rocking – like so much per mile – so we can do a quick turn around on residual monies.

I am still planning to get out to survey the Meadows weir and work up a planting plan for the Roller project. East Fork Ditch is also on my to-do list".

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Report: Ron Brooks was absent from the meeting.

Old Business (Action):

Shared Stewardship Update: Charles said that nothing new so far and that the Shared Stewardship meetings will be quarterly. Judy did

contact Joyce at IDL and was told that our invoice for the demonstration sites is submitted. We are just waiting on the reimbursement to arrive by direct deposit or by mail. Judy did say it should come by direct deposit if our form was sent to the state, which it was.

New Business (Action):

Annual & 5 Year Plans: The Annual and 5 year plan are due in March but will discuss more at next month's meeting. Julie and the rest of the board doesn't expect many changes from previous years plans. Except, Forestry has become more of a priority.

Soil Health Symposium: The Soil Health Symposium is on February 9, 2023, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, OR. The guest speaker is Nicole Masters who has written books on restoring soil. Wendy discussed contacting individuals to be apart of the Producer panel at the symposium. She said that she will ask Dean Dryden to be apart of the panel discussing livestock BMPs. Julie mentioned possibly contacting someone from OX Ranch to discuss grazing.

It costs approximately \$10,000 to put on the symposium and usually has many sponsors and vendors at the event. With the late start this year, there may be fewer sponsorships than usual. Payette SWCD is asking for any help we can provide by finding sponsors or giving a cash donation. Wendy asked if the board was willing to donate \$500 to the symposium. The board thought that donation would be acceptable. Judy moved to donate \$500 to the Soil Health Symposium, Julie seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Julie moved that the district cover the expenses to attend and travel to the Soil Health Symposium for the

board members. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

Water Jet Stinger: Judy said that Larry will build the water jet stinger for the district. The district will need to give him the list of supplies needed to build it. The tip will need to be manufactured and Judy believes that it can be done locally in Cambridge, Idaho.

Education Contributions: This was put on the agenda because Wendy was impressed with educational outreach programs that other districts were doing. The district would like to do more and for example a teacher from the Council School District emailed about “Go on Scholarship” the district sponsors.

2022 LSEE Update/ Donation Request: Judy moved to donate \$50 to the LSEE, Charles seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Next Year CERC Crew: The board would like to get Britini Brown with the Forest Service at the February meeting to discuss the CERC crew. Wendy also asked the board for feedback on what other jobs the district could have the CERC crew do in the future.

Technical Review Committee Invitation: Brundage Mountain Development Phase II: Adams County Planning and Zoning has asked for input from the ASWCD concerning the Brundage Mountain Development Phase II. The next Planning and Zoning meeting is on January 17, 2023. Judy will go to the P&Z meeting and report back at the February meeting. The county would like us to comment or give recommendations to them by February 17, 2023.

Renew PO Box: Judy moved to renew the PO Box the district has that cost \$170/annually. Charles seconded the motion and the board approved.

Changing CTC Payment to electronic payment: Charles moved to change our Cambridge Telephone payment to a automated electronic payment. Judy seconded the motion and the board approved.

Division III Dues: The Division III meeting will be in Cascade, ID on February 16, 2023. Judy moved to approve the \$35 in dues for Division III, Julie seconded the motion, and the board approved. Wendy also asked for feedback for what other topics the Division III could discuss. One of the topics for the meeting is how to keep ag land in ag production.

Treasurer's Report: Holden showed that the main account balance is \$53,609.36. Then he discussed some of the recent transactions including changing the Microsoft 365 payment from monthly to annual. The payment plan automatically renewed our subscription for \$94.48 when changing it to an annual subscription. The water testing equipment that was approved months ago finally arrived and was charged to the credit card. As discussed earlier the board is still waiting on the IDL reimbursement and Holden will email the direct deposit forms to IDL and ISWCC.

The board discussed if they should keep the credit card control account that they have with Zions bank. After discussion the board decided to keep it for now. Wendy signed the 941 quarterly tax form and will be mailed in. Also, Wendy had to change the credit card account authorizations so Holden could talk about the account if needed with Zions Bank. Judy moved to approve the the Treasurer's Report, Charles seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Closing Remarks:

Items for January Agenda: The board discussed what to add to the agenda for next meeting. The board will discuss Annual/5yr Plan, New email service, CERC crew, County P&Z meeting, RCRDP Irrigation loan.

Next meeting will be February 8th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom & Office

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Holden McKee