

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:

October 12, 2022; 6:00 PM; District office & Zoom

Present:

Chairman Wendy Green; Supervisor Judy Dietch; Supervisor Julie Burkhardt;
Supervisor Kris Stone; Supervisor Charles Munden

Others Present:

Admin Assistant Pam Madlen via Zoom; Admin Assistant Holden McKee; ISWCC
Joe Peterson, Acting Shared Stewardship liaison Brian Davis, ISWCC Bill Lillibridge
via Zoom

Call to Order:

Wendy called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda (Action):

Charles asked to amend the agenda to include possibly funding for controlling
medusa head rye weeds which a local landowner asked him about.

Julie moved to approve the amended agenda, Charles seconded the motion, and
the board approved

Approval of Minutes (Action):

Kris moved to approve the September meeting minutes, Charles seconded the
motion, and the board approved.

Misc Business (Non-Action):

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) Report:

Joe Peterson started out stating it was great to see the board members at the
District III meeting the day before. Adams Soil & Water Conservation District
(ASWCD) is the farthest district from where the meeting was being held in Boise,
ID. He then mentioned that the District Performance report is due December 20,

2022 and the District Annual Financial Report is due to the State Controller's Office December 1, 2022.

Joe reported that the district will receive match funding of \$12,985.75 this year. The district received more funding this year due to seven districts not receiving funding. Joe reiterated from last meeting that the match funding is about a 1.4 to 1 ratio. They are hopeful that future match funding will be a 2 to 1 ratio. Joe reported that the ISWCC wants all district send in authorization forms to send future funding through direct deposit. The board decided it can approve direct deposit authorization in the Treasurer's report later in the meeting.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Ron Brooks didn't attend the meeting.

Brian Davis of IDL did report that he was able to listen to a NRCS directors meeting. NRCS will be receiving an additional \$20 billion within the next five years from the Inflation Reduction Act that Congress passed. As such NRCS is asking for "out of the box" ideas on how they can spend the additional funds. Most of the funding will be going to existing programs like EQIP. NRCS is hoping to have a substantial pot of funding for a shared stewardship program like the cheat grass challenge/ Sage Brush task initiative. The funding will be a matching pot.

NRCS and other conservation agencies like ISWCC are expecting increase funding and have the money but lack capacity (staffing/office space). As such expect more job openings with these agencies.

Old Business (Action):

Shared Stewardship Update:

Charles reported that he and Wendy put up the signs promoting the shared stewardship demonstration projects. One issue with the signs is it's hard to scan the QR code due to lack of cell service. Charles put more locations in the geo database that will also have before and after pictures of the demo projects. Wendy did write up an article for the shared stewardship project and asked for more feedback.

Brian Davis then gave a update on future shared stewardship projects in the Circle C. A contract was awarded to Precision Forestry to work on 5 properties that is a total of 64 acres in Circle C. They are hoping to have the projects done this fall if the weather permits.

Northwest Management has been contracted to help manage future shared stewardship projects. The board did discuss with Brian the communication issues between IDL and the district. For example, Ara (IDL) told Judy that there weren't enough cooperators to help the administrative aspect of these projects. Judy emphasized that the district is a cooperator and asked why the district wasn't asked to work on the new contract in Circle C project.

Charles did point out that the district did ask to finish the demo projects first before we took on additional projects. The board discussed with Brian that they would like to participate in more shared stewardship projects, not just in the Circle C. Especially with the future funding that is coming in regard to Shared Stewardship.

New Business (Action):

Approval of invoice for Shared Stewardship:

Pam presented the invoice she will send to get our reimbursement on the shared stewardship project. The board contracted Rad Mulching to do the work which was \$35,188 (Cost per acre is \$1,852 on 19 acres). IDL paid the district \$2,500 out of grant to manage the project. The mileage reimbursement will be a total of \$880.86 and personal reimbursement for signs and posts will be \$316.42. The total invoice for reimbursement will be \$38,885.28 in which the district will make a profit of \$2,596.08.

Julie moved to approve the Shared Stewardship invoice to send to IDL, Kris seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Plan for Bill Lillibridge infrastructure visit:

Bill Lillibridge of ISWCC was able to attend via Zoom. The board scheduled Bill to come visit the East Fork Ditch sites October 21, 2022. They will meet him in Council, ID approximately at 11 AM.

Report on Meadows Valley Site Visits

Bill Lillibridge visited Meadows Valley along Goose Creek and the Little Salmon. The first site was an irrigation diversion site which Bill still needs to survey. It was said that the landowner wanting help with the diversion would like technical and financial assistance. The other landowners focused technical assistance on how to plant willows. Bill said they will need to get a jet stinger to plant the willows. He mentioned that the willows could be a multiyear project and that Valley County is a good source to get willows. Wendy also said she would contact Idaho Fish & Game in regard to volunteers to help planting, too. The board also discussed possibly building another jet stinger.

IASCD Fall Division III Meeting Report:

Many of the board members were impressed with the presentation on the state's domestic well exemption at the meeting. The board members mentioned they like other districts conservation outreach to schools. They were impressed with how the Ada Soil and Water Conservation District operated and how they look for projects in be a part of and grants to fund their projects

Judy was impressed on modernizing financial systems and emphasized that the district needs to cross train the administrative assistants. She mentioned that Holden needs to know the bookkeeping duties that Pam does in case of emergency. All the board members agreed that this is something we need to do.

Weeds:

Charles was approached by a local landowner to see if there are programs or funding to help control medusa head rye on his property.

Joe Peterson recommended looking into the NRCS cheat grass challenge program for funding. Wendy asked if there was an herbicide that the landowner could use. The one herbicide recommended, Rejuvra, takes about 3 years to go into full effect in eliminating medusa head rye. Wendy did ask if Joe could research to see if other programs are available that are for non-producers.

IASCD Annual Conference:

Wendy asked if any members would like to go the IASCD Annual Conference in Burley, ID from November 15-17, 2022. The board discussed the conference schedule, topics, and tours that will be at the conference. Wendy will be going to

the conference. As the Alternate Director from Division III, her expenses will be covered by IASCD, not the Adams District

IASCD Conference Voting Delegate:

Wendy will be the district voting delegate for the IASCD Conference. Judy moved to appoint Wendy as the delegate, Kris seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Door Prize for IASCD Conference:

The board will donate \$25 to the IASCD Conference for door prizes. Julie moved to donate the money to IASCD, Charles seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Living in Adams County/Code of the West:

The board tabled the topic of “Living in Adams County/Code of the West” to the next meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

Pam reported that the main account balance is \$49,914.27 and the CWMA account is \$1800.48. Last month Wendy asked if Pam could find out how the State Insurance Fund (workers compensation) calculates how much we owe. After speaking with them Pam said they determine how much we owe based on gross payroll and not the number of employees.

Holden then asked about why we paid for Norton Security software when it’s not currently on the laptop. The board discussed the need to put some type of antivirus software on the new computer. Holden will determine if the laptop already has an antivirus software like McAfee or put Norton on the laptop.

Pam stated that the Annual Financial Report will be submitted next week to the State Controller’s Office. Julie moved to accept the Treasure’s Report and send the direct deposit form to the state, Judy seconded the motion, and the board approved.

Closing Remarks:

Items for November’s Agenda:

The board didn't discuss topics for next month's meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Holden McKee