



Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District

7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C1 – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83815 – Phone (208) 762-4939

Date: March 8, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Conference Room located in the NRCS Field Office at 7830 Meadowlark Way Suite C-1, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514849563?pwd=Um4rODNvSUxQaDdmT2NQM21wSTFIZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 1484 9563

Passcode: 642322

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. District Business

- a. Approve Minutes for February’s Meeting **ACTION ITEM**
- b. Treasurer’s Report **ACTION ITEM**

III. Agency Reports

- a. NRCS: Corey Bosen
- b. ISWCC:
- c. KSSWCD: Karla Freeman

IV. Other Business

- a. Fernan Lake Project – Kristin Lowell –District Sponsorship-**ACTION ITEM**
- b. Sharon Bosley – U of I - S.E.E.P Program Presentation
- c. Sarah Garcia – NACD Conference Updates
- d. Sarah Garcia – Boat Station -Updates
- e. PSP Joint Powers Agreement Amendment – **ACTION ITEM**
- f. Approve 5 Yr/Annual Plan – **ACTION ITEM**

V. On Going Business

Next Meeting April 12, 2023 at 9:00 am Conference Room located in the NRCS Field Office at 7830 Meadowlark Way Suite C-1, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

VII. Adjournment

Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District
7830 Meadowlark Way, Ste. C-1
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815
208.209-4348

“Putting conservation on the ground by promoting stewardship”

Minutes

Date: March 8, 2023

Present

Laurin Scarcello – Chairman
Linda Ely – Vice – Chairman
Wes Evans – Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Hicks, Supervisor
Joel Noland – Supervisor
Thomas Shafer - Supervisor
Bob Flagor –Associate Supervisor
Karla Freeman, KSSWCD
John Mobbs – Associate Supervisor
Corey Bonsen- NRCS
Bill Lillibridge – ISWCC - ZOOM
Sarah Garcia – BCSWCD
Kristin Lowell – DEQ
Gabriel Traver – NRCS
Sharon Bosley – U of I

Absent (Board members)

John Minichino Jr., Supervisor

Meeting was held at the NRCS Conference Room located at 7830 Meadowlark Way Suite C-1, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Laurin Scarcello at 9:00 am.

Wes Evans moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion to approve the February’s 2023 minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Kevin Hicks moved, and Joel Noland seconded the motion to approve the February’s 2023 financial reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Due to time constraints with Kristen Lowell, DEQ she was moved to the start with her Fernan Lake project update. Kristen updated that the project is very fluid and it currently looks as if each agency involved in this grant project will be under their own sub award agreement with DEQ. The District will be offered the streambank restoration portion of this project, and also contract out for accounting services only with the FLRCA. Kristen answered questions from the supervisors. Kristen updated the board that there will be a public meeting at the Croc Center in Coeur d’Alene on March 20, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Wes Evans moved, and Thomas Shaffer seconded the motion that the District will participate in the Fernan Lake Wetland Restoration Project through a Leading Idaho Initiative Grant with the streambank portion and accounting services only to be billed out at \$80.00 per hour. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was Corey Bensen, NRCS with updates:

Staffing and Office

- Our new recent graduate Soil Conservationist in the Coeur d’Alene office is Gabriel Traver. He started on February 13th. Gabriel recently graduated with a Master’s degree in Forestry.
- Cindy and I interviewed several candidates for the NACD partner position and made a selection. The selected candidate is currently going through all the paperwork to get started and will hopefully start later this month.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- We ranked all our applications and have spent our original allocation.

Funding Pool		Funds Available	Obligated \$	Obligated applications	Highest unfunded	Remaining per category	Actual obligated %
Team 2 LWG	%	\$550,578.00					
Forestland	55%	\$302,817.90	\$342,165.04	9	\$53,026.78	-\$39,347.14	62.15%
Cropland	30%	\$165,173.40	\$154,193.06	4	\$0.00	\$10,980.34	28.01%
Streambank	13%	\$71,575.14	0	0	\$228,381.90	-\$156,806.76	0.00%
Pastureland	2%	\$11,011.56	\$23,700.00	1	\$0.00	-\$12,688.44	4.30%
		Obligated	\$520,058.10	14			
		Remaining	\$30,519.90	35			

Funding Pool	Unfunded \$	Unfunded Applications	Act Now FMP				
						\$17,718.00	7
Team 2 LWG		35			Pre-approved	\$11,718.00	1
Forestland	\$321,567.98	32			Total	\$29,436.00	8
Cropland							
Streambank	\$573,159.38	3					
Pastureland							
Funds Request	\$894,727.36	35					

- The second EQIP signup will be April 7th. This was originally only for select fund pools like Sage Grouse Initiative, Water management entities, Cheatgrass challenge, Joint Chiefs, Watersmart, and the new Tribal fund pool. They have added the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) money to this so many of our forestry applications can get ranked in this as well.

Civil Rights – March is Women’s History Month

National Women’s History Month traces its roots to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was in 1909, also in New York City. More than seven decades later, Congress in 1981

established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month and every year since has passed a resolution (and the president has issued a proclamation) designating March Women's History Month.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect upon advances women have made with the following Census Bureau data.

We appreciate the public's cooperation in helping us measure America's people, places, and economy.

Did You Know?

168 million

The number of females in the United States as of 2021. There were about 164 million males.

3.8 million

There were about 1.6 million more females ages 85 and older (3.8 million) than males (2.2 million) in the United States as of 2021.

36.1%

In 2021, the percentage of women 25 and older who had earned bachelor's degrees or higher compared with 33.9% of men.

79.1 million

The number of females ages 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2021. This comprises 58.2% of females ages 16 and older.

81.5%

The percentage of full-time, year-round female workers over 16 years' median earnings compared to men in 2021.

Next on the agenda was Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC updated that the commission has run the job opening and have a lot of interest in the position that once was held by Katie Yoder. The commission is looking to start the interview process within the next couple of weeks. Bill also updated that funding for another round of WQPA is being held up while JFAC struggles with the unusually large number of supplemental funding requests submitted by agencies this year. PLEASE, share with your districts' supervisors and staff that it would be a huge help if they will call their legislators to explain the value WQPA provides conservation districts, landowners, and Idaho's natural resources!

Next on the agenda was Karla Freeman, District Administrator. Karla updated on the following projects:

Leading Idaho Initiative Project – Scope of Works are being revised and sent back to DEQ so they can start the process of drafting the sub-award agreements.

Tree Sales – Karla updated that the District currently has just over 900 trees left to sale. Delivery of the seedlings will be on Tuesday April 4, 2023, at Delay Farms.

NACD Grant – Cory and Cindy have hired someone and is scheduled to start on March 13, 2023.

Karla also updated on the upcoming Spring meeting that will be held on Thursday April 20, 2023, at Red Lion Templin's in Post Falls. Since our District is host this spring, Karla urged all supervisors to attend and participate.

Boat Stations – Karla updated that the first boat station was opened on March 3, 2023. The district has also received the first installment of funding and payroll will start to get bigger starting the first cycle in March.

District credit card- Karla updated that the credit cards for the district have been issued and we will start using this card for purchases, paying off each month and not carrying a balance. Karla thanked Linda Ely for doing all the leg work on this.

Next on the agenda was Sharon Bosley, University of Idaho to talk about the S.E.E.P program and how this program is beneficial in sustaining water quality. Sharon shared a power point presentation at the meeting and answered questions from the supervisors.

Next on the agenda was Sarah Garcia, Bonner County SWCD with updates from the NACD national conference. Sarah will be giving a full presentation at the Spring Division 1 Meeting but did touch base on the useful information and practices that we can implement here in Idaho. Sarah thanked the District for helping sponsor her trip to the conference.

Next Sarah updated the board concerning the ongoing wage issue with the boat station inspectors. Sarah updated that there was no increase in the wages for the inspectors and Bonner SWCD voted not to run and maintain the boat stations in her county. The Idaho Department of Agriculture will have these stations handed over to them for the 2023 season. This is going to take a huge toll on our waterways in northern Idaho. Sarah did update that there were legislators that brought to JFAC the need for the wage increase and JFAC voted and approved to a \$1.20 increase. There was additional pushback within the JFAC. The Districts do not know how this increase will impact the boat stations and how this increase will be allocated once the final budgets come out.

Next on the agenda was the Panhandle Seedling Program (PSP) Joint Powers Agreement Amendment that simply states that if the nursery pack out numbers are short on trees that we ordered each district will take a part of the loss based on the percentages of their original order. Wes Evans moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion to accept this amendment and will carry this vote forward to the Spring Division 1 Meeting where all Districts will vote to accept this. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was to approve and accept the 5 Year/Annual Plan as revised. Linda Ely moved, and Thomas Shaffer seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next was a discussion about participation in the Modern Homesteading Event that is being held at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds on June 30, and July 1, 2023. Discussions were had about having all 4 Districts participate. Each District can highlight the programs they are involved within their area. The KSSWCD District can do a focus on the no-till drill program as well as soil health, with videos and interactive displays. The District still plans to move forward to put in place the no till drill program.

Next on the agenda was Thomas Shaffer, Supervisor who gave an update concerning a new development, Stone Creek in NE Hayden. This development is slated for 69 homes and are being built on a wetland. Discussion was had around the room concerning how this was able to move forward without a push back from other agencies or something in place to enforce all involved to take a closer look at what is being done to preserve the wetland.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.