



Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District
7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C1 – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83815 – Phone (208) 762-4939

Date: January 11, 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

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. District Business

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

III. Agency Reports

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

IV. Other Business

- a. Oaths of office – New Board members
- b. Election of Officers – **ACTION ITEM**
- c. 2023 Sponsorship for Panhandle Farm Corridor – Lisa Pointer – **ACTION ITEM**
- d. No Till Drill – Discussion
- e. Fernan Lake Project – Sub-contract with District - **ACTION ITEM**
- f. Approve FY 2021-2022 Year End Audit – Representation Letter – **ACTION ITEM**
- g. Aquifer Board – 5 year Plan –Laurin Scarcello - Discussion

V. On Going Business

Next Meeting February 8, 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 ACTION ITEM

*The Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors may also hold an executive session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to [Idaho Code §67-2345(1)(a) & (b)5. No formal action will be taken during this session.

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: January 11, 2023

Present

Laurin Scarcello – Chairman
Linda Ely – Vice - Chairman
Wes Evans – Secretary/Treasurer
John Minichino Jr., Supervisor
Kevin Hicks, Supervisor
Joel Noland – Supervisor
Thomas Shafer - Supervisor
Bob Burke – Previous Vice Chairman
Bob Flagor –Associate Supervisor
Jon Groth – Associate Supervisor
Karla Freeman, KSSWCD
Corey Bonsen- NRCS
Katie Yoder - ISWCC
Sarah Garcia – BCSWCD- ZOOM
Lisa Pointer – Panhandle Farm Corridor

Absent (Board members)

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 Vice-Chairman Bob Burke at 9:05 am. Introductions were made around the room.

Linda Ely moved, and Wes Evans seconded the motion to approve the December’s 2022 minutes with one change to page two, on the landowner’s name of Larry Rumble to Larry Runkle. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next was the Oaths of Office for three new board members: Joel Noland, Kevin Hicks, and Thomas Shafer. Thomas Shafer took his Oath of Office, next was Joel Noland taking his Oath of Office, followed by Kevin Hick taking his Oath of Office.

Next was the election of officers. It was recommended by current Vice-Chairman Bob Burke that Laurin Scarcello be chosen for Chairman, Linda Ely be chosen as Vice-Chairman and Wes Evans be chosen as Secretary/Treasurer simply due to the fact they are the longest sitting members on the board with the most experience. Questions were asked by the new board members as to the roles of each position and the duties they would have. Laurin Scarcello spoke on his background and experience; next Linda Ely spoke of her background and experience and last Wes Evan spoke of his experience and agreed with Bob Burke recommendation.

John Minichino Jr. motioned, and Thomas Shafer seconded the motion that Laurin Scarcello hold the Chairman seat, Lindy Ely hold the Vice-Chairman seat and Wes Evans hold the seat of Secretary/ Treasurer. **MOTION CARRIED.**

At this point in the meeting, Laurin Scarcello took over as Chairman and continued the meeting.

John Minichino Jr. moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion to approve the December's 2022 financial reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

First on the agenda was Corey Bensen, with NRCS updated:

Staffing and Office

- The recent graduate we selected for the Coeur d'Alene office accepted the tentative job offer. We now wait for the background check process to go through. Hopefully everything will process quickly and smoothly, and we will have a start date in the near future.
- Engineer position is advertised currently with Coeur d'Alene as an option for location. This would put a second engineer in the Coeur d'Alene office.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- We are currently working on application that were received and eligible. Doing site visits, inventory, and conservation plan work in Conservation Desktop.
- Something new this year, is a process called Act Now. This is allowing us to take eligible applications in the CPA/DIA/CEMA, Energy, and Organic Pools.
 - This means we can rank and move these forward to contracts before the ranking deadline as long as they meet a minimum ranking threshold. So, these pools will be funded off the top, before we get to the majority of the pools.
 - CPA is a Conservation Planning Activity, such as a forest management plan
 - DIA is a Design and Implementation Activities, filling out practice Implementation Requirement forms (job sheets)
 - CEMA is a Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities, such as forest inventory if a basic plan like a tax plan is in place, however it does not have a full inventory.
- Need to rank all other projects by February 17th and then should know funding not long after that.
- The second EQIP signup will be April 7th. This is only for select fund pools like Sage Grouse Initiative, Water management entities, Cheatgrass challenge, Joint Chiefs, Watersmart, and the new Tribal fund pool.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) –

- The state also released the CSP Classic application cutoff date of **January 27th, 2023.**
- All eligibility will need to be completed by March 3rd, 2023.

Next on the agenda was Katie Yoder, ISWCC. Katie did not have any new updates from the commission, so she spoke of what her agency does and explained the background and the partnership they have with the conservation districts. Katie updated of how her position and the State Engineer's Bill Lillibridge assist the districts.

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

Leading Idaho Initiative Grant submission, stating the District had received verbal confirmation that two projects had been chosen and they were the Wolf Lodge Creek Reach #5 Andrew LeClaire Project, and The Toedter Property – Mica Creek. The District should be receiving sub-award contracts in the upcoming weeks.

319 – North Fork of the CDA River – Karla updated that the District had received the first reimbursement for completion of site 1 and site 2. Total for that reimbursement was \$14,748.00. Karla updated that she is waiting on an invoice from Shoshone County Road Department to invoice for the rock used on both sites. Karla also explained what a 319 grant is for the new board members.

Tree Sales – Karla updated that the District currently has just over 400 trees left to sale. Karla also updated on what the Tree Seedling Program is about for the new board members.

Yearly Audit – Karla updated that the yearly audit for FY 2021-2022 is almost completed, and once I have the final draft I will forward it to all board members.

NACD Grant – We have still had no new candidates apply for the position within the grant. Karla will work with Corey Bonsen, NRCS to revise the job description to make it more of an administrative position in hopes to receive more interested candidates.

Five Year Plan/Annual Plan – Karla updated that directly following the next board meeting on Wednesday February 8, 2023 there will be a workshop for all interested board members to stay to work on updating this plan that is due to the ISWCC by March 31, 2023.

Next on the agenda was a short presentation from Lisa Pointer, Panhandle Farm Corridor. Lisa updated that this year for 2023 we will be adding an additional two farmers to the corridor with a potential for more since the deadline to sign up is in April. There are currently 26 farmers in the program. Lisa is requesting sponsorship from the District to help with printing cost of brochures. The District has been a sponsor for this program the previous two years.

Wes Evans motioned and John Minichino Jr. seconded the motion to sponsor the program with a donation of \$1,500.00 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Wes Evans updated on the no-till drill program for the new board members, Wes would like to have a speaker out of Spokane, WA to come and address the board on possible funding options to acquire the no till drill. Wes will schedule this and let Karla know when we can add this to the agenda.

Next on the agenda was the Fernan Lake project. Karla updated the board on this Leading Idaho Initiative Grant that was submitted from the Fernan Lake Recreation Conservation Association (FLRCA) and chosen to be funded for a 1.3-million-dollar project. One of the project leads reached out to the District to inquire if we would be interested in developing a sub contract with FLCRA to assist in the accounting and reimbursement process for this grant and charge an hourly rate. There will be a meeting on January 18, 2023 at University of Idaho with all participants involved in this grant. Karla will bring back more information to present to the board.

John Minichino Jr motioned, and Thomas Shafer seconded the motion that the District would be interested in assisting FLRCA with this project based on information that will be presented to the board from the January 18th meeting and the deliverables that the District would produce. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was to approve and sign the Representation Letter from Anderson Brothers for our Yearly Audit for FY 2021-2022. Linda Ely motioned, and John Minichino Jr. seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was Laurin Scarcello who wanted to discuss sharing the District's Five Year/Annual Plan with the Aquifer Board. Laurin stated that the Aquifer Board would probably not have a plan as in depth as the District's plan but could use ours as a guide. Laurin updated that since this plan is a public document from the District we could share this with the Aquifer Board. Lauren also invited any board member to attend the meetings for the Aquifer Board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.