



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

Date: April 12, 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:

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. District Business

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

III. Agency Reports

- a. NRCS: Corey Bensen
- b. ISWCC: Bill Lillibridge
- c. KSSWCD: Karla Freeman

IV. Other Business

- a. No till drill- Vicky Carter – Discussion
- b. Modern Homesteader Conference – Discussion
- c. Leading Idaho – Toedter – Approval MOU – **ACTION ITEM**
- d. Leading Idaho – Wolf Lodge Creek #5 – **ACTION ITEM**
- e. Leading Idaho – Albert Walsh – Schlagel Area – **ACTION ITEM**
- f. Appoint New Board Member- **ACTION ITEM**

V. On Going Business

Next Meeting May 10, 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: April 12, 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
Andrea Burton- NRCS
Bill Lillibridge – ISWCC - ZOOM
Vicky Carter- Spokane Soil & Water Conservation District
Ty Meyer – Spokane Soil & Water Conservation District
Jacob Garringer – Governor's Office

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.

Introductions were made around the room.

Lina Ely moved, and Wes Evans seconded the motion to approve the March's 2023 minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Linda Ely moved, and Kevin Hicks seconded the motion to approve the March's 2023 financial reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was Andrea Burton, NRCS giving updates in the absence of Corey Bensen.

Staffing and Office

- NACD partner started last month. Her name is Georja Kriebs. Cindy says she is doing very well and picking things up quickly.
- Trisha Cracroft, our Area Conservationist, is leaving Idaho at the end of May. She will be in Coeur d'Alene on April 19th to meet with staff.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- We ranked all our applications and have spent our original allocation for our LWG. We have had a couple more pre-approved since last month, but mainly still waiting on the additional funds request.

| Funding Pool | | Funds Available | Obligated \$ | Obligated applications | Highest unfunded | Remaining per category | Actual obligated % | Unfunded Applications |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Team 2 LWG % | | \$550,578.00 | | | | | | 34 |
| Forestland | 55% | \$302,817.90 | \$395,285.00 | 12 | | -\$92,467.10 | 71.79% | 31 |
| Cropland | 30% | \$165,173.40 | \$126,372.00 | 4 | \$0.00 | \$38,801.40 | 22.95% | |
| Streambank | 13% | \$71,575.14 | 0 | 0 | \$228,381.90 | -\$156,806.76 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Pastureland | 2% | \$11,011.56 | \$28,443.00 | 1 | \$0.00 | -\$17,431.44 | 5.17% | |
| | | Obligated | \$550,100.00 | | | | | |
| | | Remaining | \$478.00 | | | | | |
| Act Now | | | \$33,090.00 | 9 | | | | |
| Air Quality | | | \$18,765.36 | 2 | | | | |
| SD | | | \$58,384.00 | 1 | | | | |
| Total team 2 | | | \$660,339.36 | 29 | | | | |

- The second EQIP signup was 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. We ended up with 8 new applications besides some of the Act Now applications (FMP applications that were funded).

Civil Rights –

- As always, board members are welcomed to request civil rights training from NRCS.
- We strongly believe that a diverse workforce in an inclusive environment will improve individual and organizational performance and result in better value to customers, clients, taxpayers, and other stakeholders. We look forward to working with agencies to create a more diverse, high performing workforce.

Next on the agenda was Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC updated that they have chosen seven (7) candidates to interview for Katie Yoder's position. They are looking at wrapping up interviews by mid next week so they can make an offer by Friday April 21, 2023. Bill also updated that the south Idaho Engineer position is open. Bill is currently the only engineer servicing all of Idaho. Bill also updated that there is another round of WQPA funds in the amount of five (5) million dollars. Time frame for the WQPA applications is May 1, 2023 thru May 31, 2023. Bill will be reaching out to our district administrator to see if there are any possible projects that would qualify. Bill also updates that the board of commissioners has been voted on and has passed to have seven (7) board members. Bill updated on his site visit to Powderhorn Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Bill advised the district that he thought this would be a good project of shoreline restoration to sponsor but cost needed to be researched prior to making this decision.

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

Boat Stations – The district has two (2) open boat stations and the remaining other two (2) are scheduled to open May 6, 2023. Karla also updated that the district received its first installment of funding from the state.

Karla also updated that Bonner County SWCD was approached by ISDA to reconsider managing the boat stations with the agreement that Bonner would receive the additional funding to help with the hourly salaries and hiring expenses that go along with the seasonal management of the boat stations. Bonner county approved this at their board meeting. Karla updated that she has reached out to ISDA to question what the district could expect for our hourly salaries. Karla is waiting for a response.

Tree Sales – Tree sale went great; we were able to sell over 45,000 trees just in our district. Currently the district still has less than 500 trees to sale.

Leading Idaho Projects:

Wolf Lodge Creek #5 – Just received MOU and is on the agenda for approval.

Toedtr – Just received MOU and is on the agenda for approval.

Schlagel Draw – Albert Walsh – DEQ notified the district early in the week to make them aware that we were funded for this project. We have received the MOU and is on the agenda for approval.

Fernan Lake – this project was pulled from DEQ and the Fernan Lake Homeowners Association will not need our assistance in managing this grant as they previously requested.

Karla also updated that the attorney general with the State of Idaho will no longer renew our MOU stating they have an increased work load. Our MOU is set to expire on June 30, 2023. It was discussed that the district will not retain an attorney. The district will seek legal counsel only if needed.

Karla updated the booth for the Modern Homesteader Event has been secured and we will be moving forward with plans for the set up Karla also asked for volunteers to help work the booth on Friday June 30 and Saturday July 1, 2023.

Karla reminded the board of the upcoming Division 1 meeting being held on Thursday April 20, 2023.

Karla also updated that she had received an email with the resignation of current board meeting John Minichino Jr. John has received a promotion and his responsibilities will be taking up more time.

Next on the agenda was Vicky Carter and Ty Meyer, both with the Spokane Soil & Water Conservation District to talk with the board concerning the no till drill project. Vicky gave a power point overview of the Spokane Soil & Water Conservation District. Ty Meyer spoke on the no till program. There were conversations concerning the programs they have, the funding they receive and direct questions and answers concerning the no till drill.

Next on the agenda was to approve the MOU for the Leading Idaho Toedter project. Wes Evans moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion to approve the MOU. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was to approve the MOU for the Leading Idaho – Wolf Lodge Creek #5 project. Wes Evans moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was to approve the MOU for the Leading Idaho Schlagel Draw Albert Walsh project. Kevin Hicks moved, and Joel Noland seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next on the agenda was to appoint a new board member to fill the seat that was let with the resignation of John Minichino Jr. Discussions were made to consider all three (3) associate board members. With all three (3) associate members bringing something to the table it was ultimately decided that Jon Groth would fill the seat so the district would have representation of Shoshone County. Kevin Hicks moved, and Linda Ely seconded the motion to appoint Jon Groth to fill the vacant position on the board. **MOTION CARRIED.**

In other business, Jon Groth updated that the Kingston Sewer and Water are moving forward with the purchase of the land for the new facility. Currently the sewer and water department are looking to start building in 2024 and be completed in 2025. Jon will continue to keep us updated.

Next meeting will be held on May 10, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.