

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes for January 16th, 2020

USDA-NRCS Service Center, Arco, ID

Present: Randy Purser, Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Mindy Hawley, Stephanie Barnes, Frances Perkes (via telephone).

Guests: Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Troy Saffle - IDEQ, Matt Bringham – USFWS, Steve Smith – Custer County Commissioner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Purser at 12:10 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to accept the December minutes as written. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Treasurer's Report: Frances Perkes provided the monthly treasurer's report and checks to be approved and signed. A motion was made by Walt Johnson to approve the treasurer's report and sign the checks. A second was made by Todd Perkes. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Monthly Reports:

IDEQ: Troy Saffle with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality was in attendance and provide the board with a general overview of the updated TMDL for the Big Lost River Subbasin and an overview of water quality within the Little Lost River Subbasin.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer provided an update on NRCS activities. The NRCS has set rough dates for the next EQIP sign-up that will happen in the Spring. The NRCS re-organization is moving slower than anticipated, but he has been attending and interacting with the Blaine SWCD. Discussion was also made on potential pipeline projects within the District.

NACD/SWCD: Randy provided an update that sixteen resumes were received for consideration of the TA grant position. Interview will be scheduled in the next week or so.

BSWCD Employee Reports: Mindy Hawley provided an update on the 2020 Envirothon. She is participating in the Envirothon planning meetings. The weather and road conditions prevented our participation in the Legislative Display Day in Boise this year.

USFWS: Matt Bringhurst attended and held discussion with the board on potential partnership projects. The board asked Jesse Fullmer to create a list of potential projects that the NRCS will be working with in the coming year that would meet the USFWS' conservation goals.

Old Business:

Drill Grant Update: Stephanie provided an update on High Country RC&D's work on applying for grants to assist with the purchase of a no-till drill. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has partnered by donating funds toward the purchase.

Additional board member: Discussion on adding a board member(s) was continued from previous meetings. It was noted that adding additional members at this time will not meet the needs of the board to help meet quorum as the addition of members will increase the number needed to meet quorum for meetings. This item is tabled.

New Business:

Donation Request for East Side/West Side/Jefferson SWCD's soil conservation workshop: No motion was made.

IDEA Dues: The check was approved in the motion to approve checks to sign.

Agriculture in the Classroom dues: Discussion was made about this organization and what the dues are used for. In the past the District has opted to help send an interested teacher to the Agriculture in the Classroom's training events. Stephanie will research when these events are and how much they cost to report to the board next month.

UI Extension Redbook Sponsorship: The check was approved in the motion to approve checks to sign.

Election of Officers: Discussion was made and the officers will be the same as last year.

Employee Evaluations: Tabled until February.

Joint Tree Sale with Blaine SWCD or Madison SWCD: Discussion was made on competing with local businesses. Discussion was made on tree species and sizes offered by the other Districts. Discussion was made on level of interest in the District.

Joint Winter Workshop with UI Extension and NRCS: Discussion was on holding a winter workshop in Arco focusing on irrigation efficiency.

Cheatgrass Challenge Partner Meeting: The NRCS and their partners will be meeting to discuss the new NRCS program named the Cheatgrass Challenge. The District has agreed to pay the rent of the meeting room at the B.I.C.

Draft Five-Year Plan and Employee Handbook: A draft copy of the five-year plan and an employee handbook was given to the board to start reviewing.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on February 20th, 2020 at noon at the USDA-NRCS Service Center in Arco.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:05 p.m. by Todd Perkes, second by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**