

BUTTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes for March 18th, 2021
Butte County Business Center, Arco, ID
and via Zoom

Board Present: Todd Perkes, Walt Johnson, Hayden Isham

Staff Present: Stephanie Barnes

Guests Present: David Callister – Butte County Extension

Via teleconference: Randy Purser – Butte SWCD, Frances Perkes – Butte SWCD, Jennie Weathered – Butte SWCD, Jesse Fullmer – NRCS, Rob Sharpnack – ISWCC, Bill Lilibridge – ISWCC, Wendy Pratt – ISWCC, Matt Bringhurst - USFWS

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Randy Purser at 12:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes: A motion was made by Todd Perkes to accept the February minutes as written. A second was made by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, 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 Todd Perkes to approve the treasurer’s report and sign the checks with a second from Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**

Monthly Reports:

USFWS: Matt Bringhurst joined the meeting via Zoom. He provided an update on projects that are using the partner funds from the District.

Butte SWCD Employees: Jennie updated the board on her work with the NRCS and her employment status with the NRCS. Stephanie read an update from Mindy on youth outreach activities. District employees are working-from-home and going to the office on scheduled days and times to comply with federal COVID-19 restrictions.

ISWCC: Rob Sharpnack, Bill Lilibridge, and Wendy Pratt were present viz Zoom to visit with the board. Bill presented an overview of alternative for District base allocation and match funding and asked the board which option they would like to choose. Discussion from the board decided we would like to stay staus-quo with how funding from the ISWCC is handled and distributed to the Districts. Rob gave an update on current legislation and ISWCC activities. Wendy is serving as our Division representative on the ISWCC board and introduced herself to the board.

NRCS: Jesse Fullmer provided an update on NRCS activities. Program letters are being sent out. The NRCS is requesting around \$1,000,000 more in funding to fund more applications. Three of the four submitted Water Management Entity applications were funded in the District. The building remodel is now set to begin May 1st and last 45 days. New workload metrics show that the Arco NRCS office qualifies for another soil conservationist position. Discussion with the Blaine SWCD board and the Butte SWCD board set the Spring local work group meeting for April 14th at 1:00p.m. The Butte SWCD will rent the Butte County Business Center to provide a physical location for producers to meet in addition to the Zoom link.

Butte County Extension: David Callister provided an update youth agricultural activities coming up. There will be a field scouting class held on April 23rd.

Old Business:

ISWCC comments on match funding: Discussion with Bill Lilibridge from earlier in the meeting resulted in the board's preference for how funding is handled to be recorded in the minutes and submitted to Bill as our official record.

Reduced Tillage Test Plots: David Callister gave an update on the Reduced Tillage Test Plots. He is working on the irrigation system and is searching for an 8'-9' disk. Discussion was made on Teff grass as a cover crop.

New Business:

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on April 14th, 2021 at 11:00am at the Butte County Business Center in Arco.

A motion to adjourn was made at 1:15 p.m. by Todd Perkes, second by Walt Johnson. Voting Aye: Todd Perkes, Randy Purser, Hayden Isham, Walt Johnson. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Approved.**