BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: USDA Service Center Plummer ID 83851 & Teleconference

Attendees:

USDA Service Center

Lori Teeters, District Manager
David Crabtree, Supervisor
Steve Cuvala, Supervisor
Tim Schaffer, Chair
Larry Cooke, Supervisor
Corey Bonson, NRCS
Allie Rausch

by Zoom
Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM by Chair Tim Schaffer.

NRCS

Corey Bonson gave an update on NRCS.

- Their fiscal year is coming to an end and they are finished obligating contracts for 2025.
- Some of the unfunded applications that would have been eligible for the IRA fund pool (Act Now) were received after the original sign-up deadline, but it was turned off before they could be funded.
- The 2026 FY EQIP sign-up deadline is October 3, 2025 – EQIP was authorized under the Big Beautiful Bill and funding for IRA will be rolled into EQIP under the bill. Allocations are still unknown until after the budget passes after October 1.
- LWG Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2025 1 pm – 5 pm at the IDL office on Industrial Loop.

ISWCC

Bill Lillibridge gave an update on ISWCC news.

- IDWR and the ISWCC are moving forward to hire an outside/independent facilitator to analyze potential government efficiencies of merging ISWCC within IDWR. A committee has been created to represent Districts/Divisions, IASCD, ISWCC, IDWR and other stakeholders to guide this process.
- The Resource Conservationist position (Jenna's old position) has been filled and the new employee, Kaitlyn Parks, will start September 29th. Bill will be taking her around to the districts to introduce her. Bill will be attending the Panhandle BAG meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2025 to represent BSWCD 319 Grant projects.

BSWCD

Allie Rauch provided a review of the BSWCD report.

- Tree Seedling Sales – We have updated our 2026 tree sale order form. We had set up an online shop, but it wasn't calculating accurately so it was shut down for now. The 2027 grow order was submitted.
- Grant Updates – Grants submitted: Sheep/Smith Creek Culvert Replacement, Riverside Streambank Stabilization, Upper Joe (Badgett) Streambank Stabilization
- Moses Mountain – Submitted final report and final reimbursement request was submitted and accepted.
- Office – Fall Meeting agenda will be completed by September 15th and sent out to the other districts. Worked on Finalizing the Benewah County CWPP (fire mitigation plan). A new district manager was hired, Lori Teeters, and started training with Allie on August 19, 2025. SCO local governing entities registry was completed. Began and almost completed the performance report that is due Dec. 20. Benewah County budget request was approved for FY26, the appropriation is $6000 up from $4000 last FY.
- Outreach – Allie attended Plummer Day, 6th grade Resource Tour, UI Extension Stream Restoration Class, Benewah County Fair.
- Pulled the remaining crop signs – we currently have 34 signs accounted for at the office.
- Revisited the St Joe Streambank 319 grant projects.

District Business

Larry Cooke moved to approve the June meeting minutes and Tim Schaffer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tim Schaffer moved to accept financials as presented and Dave Crabtree seconded. Motion carried.

Discussed the Fall Division Meeting coming up on October 23 at the Soaring Hawk. Food will be provided by The Gateway, approximately $300 depending on attendance. Lori will have the guest speakers confirmed and the agenda completed by the 15th of September and sent out to the other districts.

- **Correspondence:** Received a letter from ISWCC re: Governor Little's Idaho Act Executive Order – the order effects all state agencies and directs them to reduce the budgeted spending limits of their general fund appropriations by 3% for FY2026; Umpqua Bank as of Sept 1, 2025 will start operating under Columbia Bank; Travis Jones, IASCD Executive Director has resigned and his last day will be Sept. 26, 2025.

Upcoming:

Next board meeting is **Monday, November 10, 2025 @2pm** – Board discussed and approved changing the board meeting times during the winter months from 5pm to 2pm, still the second Tuesday of the month, except for November, which happens to fall on Veterans Day.

Fall Division Meeting October 23, 2025

Adjournment Item:

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori J. Teeters, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

- **Accept financial reports**
- **Approval of previous meeting minutes**