

BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 14th , 2:00pm

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: USDA Service Center Plummer ID 83851 & Teleconference

Attendees:

USDA Service Center

Nick Elwell, BSWCD

Leann Daman, Supervisor

David Crabtree, Supervisor

Steve Cuvala, Supervisor

Tim Schaffer, Chair

Larry Cooke, Supervisor

Lance Burton, NRCS

by Zoom:

Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Chair Tim Schaffer.

NRCS

Lance Burton gave an update on NRCS, and personnel. Current snowpack in the Idaho panhandle is well below normal at approximately 66%, although precipitation overall is above average at 108%. However, the panhandle has experienced 3 consecutive drought and low snowpack years, and the lack of snow in elevations below 5,000 ft elevation this year indicates moderate to severe drought conditions ahead. The NRCS short staffing will continue until the hiring process is completed, hopefully soon. Lance and Cory Bensen will have completed the length of their interim details this month, and both will return to their respective positions by May.

ISWCC

Bill Lillibridge gave an update for ISWCC. Bill provided details on 319 grants and proposals for FY 2026-27. Bill has started preparations for the St. Joe Riverside 319 grant after we received notification from DEQ that it was likely to be funded in July '26. Currently Bill is reviewing plans, and we are gathering landowner information for the 404 and encroachment permits. ISWCC has filled their North Idaho NRC position with Heather Pound. Heather could not attend the board meeting due to AIS training, but we are looking forward to formally meeting her soon. Heather's primary office will be in Sandpoint.

BSWCD

Nick Elwell provided the review for the district, district's budget, and the 319 grants 2026 update. The District received notification from Jade Clinkenbeard DEQ that the St. Joe Riverside 319 project is likely to be funded this July, and work will begin in the fall. As a result of other higher ranked projects obtaining funding from other sources or withdrawing their applications, our Riverside application rose to the top of the list. Preliminary planning for permits and other leg work has begun. In addition, the District has approved the support of reapplying for the Sheep creek 319 grant for 2027. The district wrapped up the tree seedling sale in the beginning of April with 97% of trees sold. Approximately 475 western white pine seedlings remain unsold, and will be transferred to IDL cooler in

St. Maries in the next week. The board discussed a 10-20% reduction in seedling order for 2027, primarily in Western White Pine. The IDL has dedicated \$20,000 in pass through funds in support of the PSP. The funds are available until June 2026 and will reimburse landowner's seedling purchases who are working on reforestation projects on their property. The reimbursements are specific to orders over 75 trees in which the seedlings are used specifically to reforest AG or land damaged by recent wind or fire. Landowners will simply need their parcel number and pictures for verification of work eligible for the IDL reimbursement grant funds.

The board approved the support of the U of I 6th grade natural resource tour in July with attendance and presentation by Nick.

District Business

Larry Cooke moved to approve the March meeting minutes and David Crabtree seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tim Schaffer moved to approve the February Financial report and Larry Cooke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leann Daman moved to approve the financial contribution of \$150 to the Idaho State Forestry Contest. Tim Schaffer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leann Daman moved to approve the district's contribution to the UofI natural resource tour with attendance and presentation by Nick Elwell this July. Tim Schaffer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Upcoming:

Next board meeting is May 12th, 2026 @2pm

Adjournment Item:

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 2:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Elwell, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

- **Accept financial reports**
- **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
- **Approval of financial contribution of \$150 to Idaho State Forestry Contest**
- **Approval of support contribution to U of I 6th grade resource tour**