

BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 8, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: USDA Service Center Plummer ID 83851 & Teleconference

Attendees:

USDA Service Center

Allie Rauch, BSWCD	by Zoom
Leann Daman, Supervisor	Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC
David Crabtree, Supervisor	Corey Bonson, NRCS
Steve Cuvala, Supervisor	Tom Daniels, IASCD
Tim Schaffer, Chair	
Larry Cooke, Supervisor	

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

NRCS

Corey Bonson gave an update on NRCS. There will be a new acting State Conservationist starting next week on July 14th from out of state. Highly Erodible Land Compliance reviews will begin August 25th for the northern counties. Employees are finishing up status reviews for CRP contracts that expire next year. They anticipate having a list of sign-ups from FSA any time. Plans will likely be done in mid-August. Local Working Group meeting will need to be done before September 26th this year. LWG fact sheet and conservation district checklist are attached.

ISWCC

Bill Lillibridge gave an update on ISWCC news. ISWCC has identified two sections of code to eliminate in accordance with the Idaho Code Cleanup Act. 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 will be 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 posted and closes July 17th. District surveys are due July 31st. Financial and match reports are due August 16th.

BSWCD

Allie Rauch provided a review of the BSWCD report. The District received our invoices for the 2025 tree seedlings. Julie from Bonner is working on getting the PSP website working so that we can accept online orders. The Sheep Creek Culvert Replacement project was not selected for WQPA funding. There was discussion on why it wasn't chosen, including scoring lower in the categories of budget, project effectiveness, and public benefit. Loretta from ISWCC suggested applying for an IDWR flood management grant for this project. The District plans to submit three 319 applications, including Sheep/Smith, Riverside-St. Joe, and Upper Joe-Badgett. The Western State Fire Manager grant application was not selected for funding because of the outdated CWPP. A meeting with Niki from Apline Summit was held to clean up the accounts receivable and to add the LGIP account in QuickBooks.

The IASCD and ISWCC board meetings were attended, and reports from those meetings were shared. The District received its annual support from Benewah and Shoshone counties. CWPP updates from the CDA Tribe, Tensed Rural Fire, and Gateway Fire were collected for the 2025 plan. The District shared a booth with Kootenai-Shoshone, Bonner, and NRCS at the Modern Homesteading conference. The event was well attended with over 5,000 people from all over the country. Kootenai-Shoshone had their no-till drill on display, and the NRCS had their large rainfall simulator and gave demonstrations on the difference in runoff and infiltration on conventionally tilled ground versus different cover and till types.

District Business

Leann Daman moved to approve the June meeting minutes and Dave Crabtree seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tim Schaffer moved to accept financials as presented and Larry Cooke seconded. Motion carried.

The District Survey was discussed. The Board will review and provide comments before the July 31st deadline.

The 2027 PSP seedling grow order was discussed. The Board decided to use the 2026 grow order and add 4 boxes of Doug-fir. The order will be as follows: 15 boxes PP, 9 boxes WP, 1 box LP, 5 boxes DF, 1 box CE, 1 box ES, and 15 boxes WL.

The District will be hosting the Fall Division 1 meeting. The meeting date and location were discussed. The board decided on Thursday, Oct. 23rd at the Soaring Hawk Resort.

Allie Rauch gave a report on the IDWR and IASCD meetings. At both of these meetings there was much discussion about the IDWR and ISWCC merger and how that is going to affect the districts.

Correspondence: Bonner shared a letter that they sent to Tom Daniels about their concerns that were brought up after the IASCD meeting including lack of representation for the Division, lack of transparency in funds and use of those funds, and an overall lack of communication.

Upcoming:

Next board meeting is September 9th, 2025 @5pm

6th Grade Resource Tour July 16th-17th, 2025

Plummer Days July 18th, 2025

Restoring Idaho Streams Workshop July 25th, 2025 @ St. Maries Presbyterian Church

Benewah County Fair August 14th-16th, 2025 @ Benewah County Fairgrounds

Adjournment Item:

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Rauch, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

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