

BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: USDA Service Center Plummer ID 83851 & Teleconference

Attendees:

USDA Service Center

Allie Rauch, BSWCD	by Zoom
Tim Schaffer, Chair	Lauren King, UI Extension
Steve Cuvala, Supervisor	Erin Brooks, UIAMP
Leann Daman, Supervisor	
Larry Cooke, Supervisor	
David Crabtree, Supervisor	
Jenna Ditzel, ISWCC	
Gerald Green, CDA Tribe	
Tyler Opp, CDA Tribe	
Corey Bensen, NRCS	
Paul Daman	

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair Tim Schaffer.

NRCS

Corey Bensen gave his report. NRCS may lose one or two employees through the Deferred Resignation Program and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority. There is a hiring freeze for at least 90 days and positions cannot be filled until the freeze is over. IRA funding is on pause, payments cannot be made on funded contracts all pre-approved applications are on pause. CSP general sign up is on through Feb. 28th.

ISWCC

Jenna Ditzel gave an update on ISWCC news. Delwyne announced his plans for retirement, his last day will be May 16th. Loretta Strickland will fill in if his position remains vacant after his departure. There is a new Natural Resource Conservationist working out of Jerome and a vacant position in Soda Springs. Five-year & annual plans are due March 31st.

CDA Tribe (IAMP)

Tyler Opp shared that the CDA Tribe is enrolled in the Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership (IAMP) as a producer and partner. As a partner, the Tribe can help other producers enroll and assist in the administration of the grant. Erin Brooks, with UIAMP, also shared more information about the program including covered practices, levels of involvement for administration, and eligibility requirements. Partner subawards are open until April 30th or until all funds are committed, whichever comes first.

UI Extension

Lauren King introduced herself as the new extension educator for Benewah County and that the extension office recently hired Madi Sotin as 4-H program coordinator. She reported that her office is trying to revamp their program by offering more classes across the county and provided a list of planned programming.

BSWCD

Allie Rauch provided a review of the BSWCD report. The District has sold 13,620 trees so far (72% of total trees grown for 2025). There will be a PSP meeting on February 19th at the IDL office in Coeur d'Alene. The District received feedback about the Sheep/Smith Creek 319 projects from DEQ about why the project's ranking dropped at the super BAG meeting, including the project does not benefit Idaho waters, there was no tribal match included, and heavier tribal presence at the local BAG meeting. We will submit the project again, as the potential for different projects to be funded depends on the year. The District received most of the documentation required for the reimbursement for the Moses Mtn. project. We are still waiting on documentation of a couple more expenses. We plan on applying for 319 funds for the Riverside-St. Joe project. We are just waiting on Bill's engineering designs. A quick update from the IASCD board meeting was given. The quarterly training from IDEA was attended, including presentations on open meeting laws, election guidance, and the NACD UAC grant opportunity. The 2025 mileage rate increased to \$0.70/mile. The BSWCD website Section 508 compliance was discussed along with the proposal from the company Streamline. Payroll responsibilities were taken over by the District starting January 1st. Steve and Larry's oath of office was completed and submitted to the counties. The District's final weather station was set up on Larry's property. It is functional but set up temporarily until spring when the ground thaws. The District is working on potential projects, including Tree City USA re-certification for St. Maries and Plummer, Western State Fire Managers fuel mitigation projects, and the NACD Urban and Community Conservation grant.

District Business

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

Leann Daman moved to accept financials as presented and Dave Crabtree seconded. Motion carried.

Leann Daman moved to update the Umpqua Bank authorized signatory list for account ending in 0785 to include Steve Cuvala and Larry Cooke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Envirothon and the State Forestry Contest requested donations. The Board agreed to donate \$50 for Envirothon and \$150 for the State Forestry Contest matching previous year's donations.

Upcoming:

Next board meeting is March 11th, 2025 @5pm.

Adjournment Item:

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Rauch, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

- **Accept financial reports**
- **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
- **Update Umpqua Bank authorized signatory list to include Steve Cuvala**