

BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12th , 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

Heather Pound, ISWCC

Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC

by Zoom:

Corey Bensen

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

NRCS

Corey Bensen gave an update on NRCS, and personnel. Current streamflow forecasts in North Idaho indicate summer drought. The NRCS short staffing will continue until the hiring process is completed, hopefully soon. Cory Bensen returned to his respective position in May. ReAnn Dubey will be the acting state conservationist until the position is filled. All EQIP/CSP applications assessed and ranked by May 15, funding should be provided shortly after this. Obligation to the CSP Regenerative Ag Pilot is primary for the state and the funding will move down through the other EQIP/CSP programs from there.

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. Bill reviewed and updated parcel drawings for each of the landowners involved in the project. Heather Pound was in attendance and introduced herself in her new NRC role with ISWCC. Heather comes to ISWCC with a background in conservation work with the Pend O' Reille SWCD. We look forward to working closely with Heather in the coming months and years. She will be stationed in the Sandpoint NRCS office.

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 (still no MOU), and work will begin in the fall. Nick prepared the 404 permits for each of the landowners involved. In addition, the district has approved the support of reapplying for the FY '27 Sheep creek 319 grant due July 2026. 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. Each county in division 1 had at least one order for reimbursement, the program was successful despite a late start.

District Business

Leann Daman moved to approve the April meeting minutes and Steve Cuvala seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leann Daman moved to approve the April Financial report and Steve Cuvala seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board held an executive session to discuss District Manager's pay rate. Manager's pay increase to \$24 hour and \$26 hour on grants.

Correspondence:

Upcoming:

Grant writing workshop CDA June 1st

County Commissioner meeting June 8th

Next board meeting is June 9th, 2026 @2pm

U of I Natural Resource Tour July 23-24

Adjournment Item:

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Elwell, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

- **Accept financial reports**
- **Approval of previous meeting minutes**
- **Approval of pay rate increase for Nick Elwell, district manager**