

BENEWAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 16, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: USDA Service Center Plummer ID 83851 & Teleconference

Attendees:

USDA Service Center

Ree Brannon, BSWCD	by Zoom
Tim Schaffer, Chair	Corey Bonsen
Sherry Klaus, Supervisor	Tyler Opp
Leann Daman, Supervisor	Jenna Ditzel
Larry Cooke, Supervisor	Representative Heather Scott
David Crabtree, Supervisor	

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Chair Tim Schaffer.

NRCS

Corey gave his report (see attached). The selected person for the Programs Assistant position resigned on the day that she was to start. NRCS will re-advertise. They have also selected the Soil Cons position for CDA, who has accepted the tentative job offer, and are waiting for the job offer to be sent by HR.

Corey updated the District that the Town Hall meeting date has been set for March 12 at Schefflemaire's Country Barn in Cataldo. . It had to be done before the 2nd EQIP sign-up in April. They are still waiting on ranking pools to be released for EQIP.

He reviewed the sign-up dates for CSP

ISWCC

Jenna gave a brief update. The Commission is presenting their budget this week to Committee. Bill will be working on the design for Sheep Creek.

BSWCD

Ree Brannon provided a review of the BSWCD report (see attached). Ree had no new updates on the St. Joe. She is still pulling together documentation of expenses and match to submit a 2nd reimbursement request to DEQ. She would still like to get documentation to make a request for reimbursement on Moses Mtn §319 for the first culvert and will follow-up with James Roletto, County Roads Superintendent.

She reported on her meeting with Anderson Bros CPA and bookkeeper (now known as Alpine Summit), Christina and Niki, to go through financials and re-organize some accounts in QB.

Tree seedling orders have caused the Panhandle Seedling Program to run out of several species. Doug fir ran out in November. Cedar and spruce, too. Ponderosa pine is low and lodgepole hasn't had many orders.

Sherry Klaus recounted her visit to the Legislative Social and Display Day. Our display looked nice with everybody's project reports. Sarah did a good job describing the issues with invasive species particularly the need to be able to hire folks to man the boat check stations. There was discussion about the problems Conservation Districts have in retaining good staff to manage District business and accommodate growth such as taking on boat check stations. It would be helpful to have employees such as the manager of the boat stations in Bonner County be eligible for PERSI benefits.

The Division 1 Spring Meeting is tentatively set for April 18.

District Business

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

Leann Daman moved to accept financials as presented and Sherry Klaus seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Ree discussed the issue with IRS on paying Q3 taxes for 2023 and said that she would be meeting with Anderson Bros bookkeeper on Thursday to make sure it is resolved.

The next regular meeting will be March 12, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

By common consensus the board adjourned the general meeting at 6:15 PM and to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ree Brannon, Benewah SWCD

Approved: _____

Dated: _____

Recap of Motions:

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

