

**VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**209 N IDAHO STREET CASCADE, ID**  
**MARCH MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2020 9:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Art Troutner, Paul Kleint, John Lillehaug, Justin Florence, Ralph Thier

**Members Absent and Excused:** None

**Others Present:** Lenard Long, Friends of Lake Cascade; NRCS Scott Henderson; ISWCC Loretta Strickland; and Durena Farr, District Manager

**Meeting was called to order by Art Troutner at 9:05 a.m.**

**Action Item:** Ralph Thier moved to amend the agenda with additions. John Lillehaug seconded, and the motion carried.

**Action Item:** Ralph moved to approve, sign and file February 6, 2020 minutes as presented. John seconded and after review of final version of minutes presented, motion carried. Draft minutes were emailed to Board.

**Action Item:** Ralph moved to approve, sign and file February 20, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Paul seconded. Ralph asked for any changes or additions to Special Meeting minutes. Draft minutes prepared by Ralph Thier were emailed to Board. No changes were offered. Ralph Thier withdrew the motion. Approval of February 20, 2020 Special Meeting minutes will be added to April Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Lenard Long provided Friends of Lake Cascade status report.
2. Division III meeting in Weiser details provided by Art Troutner highlighting a Bruneau project tour using solar to mitigate ag energy costs. A similar tour of District 319 projects was suggested to highlight ongoing efforts in Valley County.
3. John Lillehaug, Paul Kleint and Ralph Thier reported on “Capitol for a Day” event. Ralph addressed 2:1 match and provided information to Representative Terry Gestrin regarding District’s position.
4. Board discussed the IASCD, Benjamin Kelly announcement & IASCD Steve Becker letter regarding direct funding of Districts and elimination of the Commission. Ralph Thier joined online for the ISWCC special meeting on 3/4/2020 stating the credibility of the commission has been questioned. Scott Henderson added that from a NRCS perspective it would be a real loss to cut the ISWCC. Loretta added that through 319 S554, ISWCC added \$70,000 in technical assistance to the District’s 319 projects.
5. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved the District write a letter to State legislators in support of the Commission’s work with districts and technical support provided to Districts while also emphasizing the need for Districts to receive the full 2:1 match which would mean an increase to the Trustee and Benefits Appropriation from the State. Paul Kleint seconded, Ralph Thier stated he would not, but the motion carried. John volunteered to work on the letter of support and asked Loretta for sample letters from other Districts. The Board did agree that District funding must be addressed to successfully continue meaningful conservation work within the District.
6. H535 regarding FY21 ISWCC funding is expected to pass after a review and minor change. Commission reports.
7. John Lillehaug provided a 2020 Forestry Tour update. A High Valley Wilderness Lakes Ranch tour scheduled for June this year with Squaw Creek as the hosting district. (Tim Kennedy)
8. Lance Holloway was contacted for funding a Conservation Implementation Crew with State 319 funds SWID RC&D

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Review of Special meeting with Curtis Elke regarding NRCS consolidation. Ralph Thier summary attached.
2. Art, John and Ralph provided their review and updates to 5-yr and Annual plans for March 18th submission
3. Board was advised that Tom Grote committed to publishing a NFPR Watershed Summit 3-part informational watershed series in The Star News for the three weeks preceding the summit. Durena has scheduled to make ValleySWCD.org updates with McKenzie
4. John Lillehaug came to the office on Wednesday, March 4th and proposed that Durena detail all additional tasks performed with decreased hours in her position since 2018 review in order to complete the 2019 Annual Review.

### **FINANCIAL Action Items:**

1. **Action Item:** John moved to accept and file Treasurer's Report for *February 29, 2020* Bank reconciliations for General account and 319 account and December LGIP statement. Ralph seconded and motion carried. Review of budget with updated 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter updated budget is to be on April Agenda.
2. **Action Item:** John moved to approve Monthly A/P: NPERS, USPS(for roll of postage stamps), Durena Farr Mileage, Lamm & Co CPA. Paul seconded and checks were signed.
3. Board was advised of the Summit sponsorships received and deposited through March 5. It was requested to add Ed Shrives, IFG, to summit contact list.

### **AGENCY UPDATES:**

1. NRCS, Scott Henderson, discussed NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1976), two shared stewardship landscapes and shared boundary lines with Valley County as a potential focus area for forest health issues, fire mitigation, erosion control and forest management practices. They are working to shorten the NEPA application process. Scott advised Board of new EQIP High Tunnel contract was moving ahead on a project referred by our office.

### **319 PROJECT UPDATES:**

1. Loretta Strickland presented the Subgrant S554 Final Report to the Board and requested some additional receipts for final invoices. Board commended the report and discussed broader exposure for the District's work detailed within the report. Loretta also confirmed the District's Request for 250 hours of Technical Assistance for the 319 S602 for FY21.

**Valley County P & Z:** The Board submitted resource concerns on the original Knife River Asphalt application and supported Irrigation District concerns on the Lake Fork Landing application (originally Tiny Home application) Public Hearing March 9, 2020, 1:00 p.m. Valley County Courthouse, Cascade

1. CUP 19-32 Appeal Knife River Asphalt & Concrete Plant
2. CUP 19-35 Appeal Lake Fork Landing

Public Hearing March 12, 2020 6:00 p.m. Valley County Court House, Cascade. The Board had no resource comments for the following applications.

1. CUP 20-01 No Business Lodge – Ed Anderson
2. CUP 20-02 Blackhawk Phase V – Tommy Ahlquist
3. CUP 20-03 Tamarack Storage Plus Amendment – Steel National
4. CUP 20-04 McCall Community School
5. Ordinance Amendment – Density and Enforcement
6. Facts and Conclusions CUP 19-36 Post Well Drilling

### **Date Reminders Recap:**

- *5-yr and Annual Plan due date March 31; Request for Assistance due March 31*
- *March 16<sup>th</sup> Summit Planning Committee meeting #4 2-4 p.m.*
- *April 2<sup>nd</sup> VSWCD Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.*
- *April 21<sup>st</sup> Summit Planning Committee meeting #5 2-4 p.m.*
- *April 22<sup>nd</sup> Recreation, Pathways and Conservation Workshop with National Park Service time/location TBD*
- *April 28<sup>th</sup> NFPR Confluence Summit 9 am – 4 pm Tamarack*

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes prepared by Durena Farr, District Manager**