

**VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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**DECEMBER ZOOM MINUTES**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 1, 2022 9:00 A.M. MINUTES**

**Members Present Online:** Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, John Lillehaug

**Members Absent and Excused:** Colt Brown

**Others Online:** Ed Allen, Valley Co. Commissioner; Kala Golden, IDWR.; Dani Terhaar, IDEQ; Bill Lillibridge, P.E. ISWCC; Lenard Long, FoLC; Neil Shippy, State Watermaster District 65; Maureen Pepper, NRCS State Water Quality Specialist/Idaho TSP Coordinator; Jason Dobis, BOR; Jordan Messner, IDFG; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Ron Brooks, NRCS Team Lead Area; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC, Pam Pace, P.E.; Judy Anderson; Daniel Esposito, NRCS; Durena Farr, VSWCD

**9:05 A.M. ZOOM Call to Order** (No Executive Session) No in-person meeting was held due to winter advisory, snow conditions

**Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to approve and sign November 3, 2022 minutes. John Lillehaug Draft minutes emailed to board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Election certification and oath of office for Bill Leaf and John Lillehaug
2. USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition Steering Committee. Budget Review and adjustments Scope of Work review.
3. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates:
  - a. Valley County P & Z, Cynda Herrick reviewed applications listed below for December 8<sup>th</sup> hearing. The district is submitting concerns on
  - b. Bill Lillibridge reported on site visits and project updates;
  - c. Lenard Long, FoLC provided Lake Cascade sampling update. Current bloom occurring under ice layer. FoLC does not test for toxicity. Lenard worked with Cheyenne Jedry's Heartland High School students on sampling techniques.
  - d. Meghan Brooksher ISWCC provided WQPA update. It does look like the legislature will fund the 2023 WQPA program. District expressed interest in November for assistance from Meghan for the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation grant application for no-till drill and trailer. Bill Leaf has done researched and obtained costs for the application. Meghan also indicated that now is the time to develop projects for the upcoming WQPA release. Maureen Pepper also recommended contacting to Ada SWCD for information on what has and has not worked for their District. Meghan agreed to move forward on the application for VSWCD and the December 15 grant deadline. Bill Leaf added that once we have a no-till drill available, and the District is able to advertise its availability, he felt demand for the unit would be high. Ed Allen advised for the District to get on Commissioner's agenda for a Valley Co. letter of support. Aging infrastructure grants are due December 9<sup>th</sup> and the irrigation districts are not close enough to move on this year's grant cycle. Bill Lillibridge has looked at projects for Boulder dam and Barker Lane projects but not Little Lake for Lake irrigation District. Art added that the Irrigation Districts are not ready to move ahead at this time.
  - e. Kala Golden. IDWR, added that the aging infrastructure grant program is based on ARPA funding and not to be offered annually, with awards made January 20, 2023. IDWR also has a loan application program available, with applications turned in at any time. Bill Leaf also added that the leaking dam has not changed much from the original installation. Maureen Pepper added that Irrigation Districts can get EQIP assistance from NRCS. Submitted proposals are evaluated and ranked. Kala provided an update on cloud seeding. In 2021, the Legislature designated IDWR as the regulatory body over cloud seeding, resulting in the completion of a statewide assessment. 1.2m acre ft is currently generated within the state from cloud seeding. The CWMP planning grant has increased interest from IDWR for exploring feasibility within the basin to explore how federal funding can be used for this type of water management strategy. Pam Pace added that the NWforecast for next year has again dropped to 85% of normal, indicating Cascade fill and flow augmentation is not likely, pursuing federal dollars is a very good idea. In the Payette Basin the feasibility is much higher with many of studies already done by Idaho Power. Cynda requested that when we do the CS101 presentation with IDWR that we present the VSWCD charter and District responsibilities as charged by the State of Idaho.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. IASCD State Conference report was provided by Art Troutner. Art's summary notes were emailed to the board and are attached to the December minutes. One topic covered at the Conference was a presentation from Cindy Snyder emphasized the importance of District records and ease of access to maintain institutional knowledge especially in times of transition: passwords, deadlines, and location of historical records available to staff and their successors. Pam Pace added comments on the topic of aquifer recharge and groundwater. Ed inquired about our options for getting better monitoring in place to be able to manage water supply. Durena added that the purpose of the CWMP grant is to capture all the tools such as monitoring as a necessary tool for the watershed.
2. Brush Creek Application Status - SuperBAG is now meeting Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> instead of the first of the month for ranking statewide applications for six regions. This Brush Creek application ranked second for our region.
3. IASCD Division III Spring Meeting February 16<sup>th</sup> (third Thursday). Durena proposed meeting initially at the Kelly's Whitewater Park Visitors Welcome Center then moving to American Legion for lunch. Art expressed concern for those that would not be able to do any walking, but it would be possible for those uninterested in walking to drive to the Legion Hall for lunch.

#### **FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file Treasurer's Report: QB register reports, bank reconciliations for November 30, 2022 General account and 319 account including Board approved recurring payments include Ziply Fiber, NPERS, PERSI and Payroll Processing (includes payroll payment to US Treasury and quarterly payroll payments by Central Mountain CPA) Bill Leaf seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to pay USDA Forest Service \$210.00 for additional seedlings. John Lillehaug seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **P & Z DECEMBER 8 AGENDA 6 P.M, VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:**

PUD 98-1 Tamarack Resort – Update and Extension Request  
CUP 22-34 Shoemaker Donnelly Storage Individual Well, Individual Septic (Tabled from Oct 20)  
CUP 22-46 Moudy Glamping Sites (4) Porta Potty and existing residence well and septic  
CUP 22-47 Cryptocurrency Site, light industry business. Well, Septic?  
CUP 22-48 Wolfe RV Rental Site – one RV site, site does not have septic nor potable water.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** John Lillehaug moved for Art Troutner to certify FY23 ISWCC Performance report, due December 20<sup>th</sup>, after Chairman review and approval. Bill seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

*December 8 Planning & Zoning 6 p.m. Valley Co Courthouse*  
*December 20 ISWCC Performance Report Due*  
*January 5 VSWCD Board Meeting 9 a.m. with NRCS and 9:30 for public to join*  
*February 14<sup>th</sup> Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative final meeting 11-3 New Meadows Community Center*

*Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.*

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Approved: January 5, 2023**  
**Minutes prepared by Durena Farr, District Manager**