

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CONTACT DURENA.FARR@ID.NACDNET.NET FOR ZOOM INVITE
MARCH IN-PERSON 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE - ZOOM HYBRID MINUTES
THURSDAY MARCH 2, 2023 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING

9 A.M. Called to Order at 9:03 a.m.

Members Present: Supervisors Art Troutner, Bill Leaf, John Lillehaug, Colt Brown, Judy Anderson, Associate Supervisors Lenard Long and Pam Pace

Members Absent and Excused: None

Others Online: Kala Golden, IDWR; Maureen Pepper, NRCS; Jason Dobis, BOR; Jordan Messner, IDFG; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Ron Brooks, NRCS Team Lead Area 5; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Kaylee Tuning, VSWCD Administrator; Durena Farr, District Manager

Action Item:

John Lillehaug moved to approve and sign February 2, 2023 minutes. Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes were mailed to board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates:
 - a. Kaylee Tuning was introduced as the District contract employee for District administration of USBR WaterSMART grant for NFPR Watershed Coalition and Restoration Plan
 - b. Kala Golden, IDWR Cloud Seeding next steps for VSWCD HB 266 directed IWRB , IWRB does not have a plan to cloud seeding expansion but feasibility and design for implementing a new program in the NFPR Watershed. Upper Colorado just received 2.4M USBR environmental grant to be used for feasibility and design; IWRB aiming for fall cloud seeding 101 Kayla asks to stay in communication it was asked if our basin is considered a new project or an expansion. Pam inquired how the money is collected. Lenard asked if BPA contributes to CS operations, Kala advised that BPA does not currently contribute but there has been movement in that direction.
 - c. Valley County P & Z, Cynda Herrick provided review of March applications listed below
 - d. Ron Brooks, NRCS, provided update on EQIP ranking period just completed. Four projects preapproved in Valley County, 12 total pre approved for Team 5.. Large projects outside of Team 5 took the majority of funding. Ron put in an additional request for 1 m for Team 5. Inflation Recuction Act funding is also processed through NRCS. 1.5 million in this first year. New applications accepted through April 7th , EQIP applications can also be rerouted to this program for funding. 10 total Valley EQIP Applications, 4 Agriculture projects. NRCS is waiting to hear on the Lake Irrigation project. EQIP does include no-till practices.
 - e. Meghan Brooksher ISWCC reminded 5yr and Annual plan due March 31, ISWCC tentatively accepting WQPA applications period will be May 1-31, IDEQ State Ag March 15- April 15. Durena will confirm with Jason Dobis for Hot Springs WMA Riparian Fence.
 - f. Lenard Long provided an update on the Septic Pump-out Program. SLRWSD held a meeting but did not have a quorum. Michelle Cooper is new to the board, notice was in the Star News seeking two additional board members. It is important to get the board filled to maintain the District instead of facing possibility of disbanding. Pump-out program Chris and Michelle Cooper agreed to distribute Septic pump out program flyers. April/may flyers will be mailed . 9 participants, 4 applications in process. Jody Green is the VC building inspector and secretary of SLRWSD, she is distributing pilot program applications to individuals requesting building permits. At the close of the meeting Lenard Long provided a board update on the PLRWSD administrative schedule to fix a leak in the winter storage pond. A PLRWSD masterplan is being put together to address the problem which includes participation with the District for offset projects. Lenard's recommendation is renting a tertiary system for the winter months, which will be expensive but the least risk to NFPR and Lake Cascade
 - g. Pam Pace provided water outlook update. Valley County remains in moderate drought for most of the County and abnormally dry for southern third of the county. Snowpack 95% of normal, 84% precipitation. Reservoir will fill if spring is cool and wet but will not fill if hot and dry. Upper Snake flow augmentation will be at the low end, about 60,000 acre feet. Pam sent the latest Drought Monitor to include in the Districts 5yr Plan.
 - h. Maureen Pepper added a link for the EPA page on newly clarified waters of the United States <https://www.epa.gov/wotus/revising-definition-waters-united-states>. Lenard and Maureen will contact Star News for press release on Source Water Priority Area designation for Valley County.

2. Landowner pivot conversion projects; USBR Hot Springs WMA fence project; and Irrigation Districts Project development update from Bill Lillibridge. WQPA might work for Roseberry . Irrigation District
3. ICWF Feb 27th presentation No-Till Drill grant application – Bill Leaf provided update. Due to weather the presentation changed from in-person to Zoom. Bill created and presented slides for the no-till presentation.
4. From here the application goes on the ballot for all of the IWCF membership to vote on proposals. John Lillehaug was online for the presentation and commended Bill for a well-done presentation.
5. 319 and State AG NPS Grant invoicing and payments for S602, S648, S741, S742. ISWCC Meghan Brooksher to provide technical assistance.
6. Water District 65 presentation to County Commissioners on water user assessment process this summer
7. VSWCD proposed CUP application review process for drainage, stormwater and wetlands

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. After February 6th discussion, Valley County Waterways Management Plan was adopted by VC but there were implementation questions. Lenard liked the idea of a pamphlet to hand out at high activity dates. Kaylee suggested boater education from State Parks interpretive programmer. It was also suggested to educate camp ground hosts, who would in turn educate campers. High traffic at boat ramps that are not campers, how do we educate these visitors. Lenard suggested going to Commissioners and ask how the District can help with implementation of waterways management plan. Lenard also suggested inviting Blake Packer to the Commissioners meeting. Kaylee Tuning also added that Forest Service has boat ramps for boater education as well. Lenard added that the coalition is the place for this topic. And advise commissioners that the coalition will be considering the topic and making recommendations.
2. Judy Anderson and Durena Farr are designated as the SWID RC&D District Supervisor representatives
3. No change on USBR WaterSMART CWMP NFPR Watershed Coalition contract. Steering committee consists of about eight members: Wes Keller, Dave Bingaman, Lenard Long, Art Troutner, Ken Roberts, Julie Manning, Lance Holloway, Melissa Jayo, Judy Nissula, and Durena Farr. Lenard is working on draft agenda. Kaylee recommended a book, Systems Thinking for Social Change, by David Peter Stroh . for the District and Coalition.
4. Judy Anderson and Art Troutner put together VSWCD Stibnite comments requested by Legislator Matt Bundy and will email to Durena.
5. IASCD Division III Spring Meeting review, Incahoots Invoice paid \$1002.98, approved February Board meeting. Deposits to date \$340.00 with Ada District and ISWCC still to pay.
6. **Action Items:** John Lillehaug moved to approve Board Certification and Signature for Five-Year and Annual Plan, Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor. Colt Brown moved to certify and sign Request for Technical Assistance 100 Hrs Bill Lillibridge, 100 Hrs Meghan Brooksher

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file Treasurer’s Report: QB register reports, bank reconciliations for February 28, 2023 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) and Division III meeting catering and door prize. Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** Colt Brown moved to approve expenditures for Colt Brown, Supervisor Development Montana Berry Growers Association 2023 Conference \$155 and \$116 lodging. John Lillehaug seconded and motion carried with all in favor. Charges for conference and lodging will appear on District credit card.
3. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to approve Durena Farr vacation request for September 4-7, 32 hours. Dates overlap District Sept. 7 Board meeting. Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

P & Z MARCH 9 6 P.M, VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:

CUP 21-09 Copper Rock Subdivision – Final Plat Approval, west side of Dawn Drive

CUP 22-30 Shaw Family Ranch Subdivision – Final Plat Approval, corner of Johnson and Norwood. Bill Leaf asked if wetlands had been delineated on the parcel. Johnson road has water issues at that part. Bill’s concern is that it would be filled with gravel. Cynda referenced a conversation with USACE

New Business:

1. VAC 23-01 Vacation of utility and Drainage Easement Alta Vista Subdivision 253/265 Alta Vista
2. V-1-23 Franklin Building Supply Setback Variance from 100 ft setback, requesting 0 ft setback.
3. CUP 23-01 Sands 55 Subdivision- preliminary plat 4-lot (3 lots and 1 flagpole) Mixed use Subdivision State Hwy 55 access. Individual wells, individual septic, will have two small apartments. Bill inquired about water

issues, slow flowing south that is part of the mud creek drainage, water originated from the east side of Hwy 55. Cynda advised that water will continue to be transported through the site. Art advised they will need a new wetlands determination. Art expressed that we need to have all the information according to county ordinance the application should be complete. Art also advised that according to ordinance the process requires VSWCD approval, Cynda maintained VSWCD is “supposed to give P & Z a recommendation”.. Art continued that in the spirit of open meeting rules that application must be complete with all information out in the open before it proceeds to P& Z commission. The conflicting views of the process was not resolved and Cynda proceeded with the next application.

4. CUP 23-02 McCall Landing Subdivision – Preliminary Plat for 9 single family residential lots on 64.6 acres. Individual wells, individual septic.

MARCH 16 AGENDA 6 P.M.

1. CUP 23-03 Xperience Glamping Site 5 geodomes, septic systems and individual wells. CR5 subdivision.
2. CUP 23-04 River Bottom Ranch Subdivision Preliminary and Final Plat – 80 acres, 3 lot subdivision individual septic, individual wells Gold Fork Road access
3. CUP 23-05 Takkinen Estates – Preliminary and Final Plat 80 acres 2 lots, lot size 31 to 49 acres, individual wells, individual septic
4. CUP 23-07 Triple M Refrigeration Commercial use, Individual well, NLRWSD sewer, access from Norwood, west Roseberry, P & Z currently asking developers to add employee housing. This application includes apartment, southwest corner.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Upcoming Events:

March 3 & 4 Montana Berry Growers Association 2023 Conference

March 6 & 7 Northwest Groundwater Conference

March 9 & 16 Valley Co P & Z 6 p.m. Valley Co Courthouse

March 20-25 Spring Break (Durena out of office)

March 31 Five Year & Annual Plan, ISWCC Request for Assistance due to ISWCC

Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date Approved: April 6, 2023

Minutes prepared by Durena Farr, District Manager