

**VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**CONTACT [DURENA.FARR@ID.NACDNET.NET](mailto:DURENA.FARR@ID.NACDNET.NET) FOR ZOOM INVITE**  
**JULY 6 MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE**  
**THURSDAY JULY 6, 2023 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Supervisors Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown, Judy Anderson  
Associate Supervisor Lenard Long, Pam Pace (online)

**Members Absent and Excused:** none

**Others Present:** Kaylee Tuning, VSWCD; Durena Farr, VSWCD

**Others Online:** Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Ron Brooks, NRCS Team Lead Area 5; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC, Mckenzie Kraemer, Maureen Pepper, NRCS, and Kala Golden, IDWR

**9:00 A.M. Call to Order by Art**

**Action Item:** Motion to approve and sign June 1, 2023 minutes. Draft minutes emailed to board.

John called for a change the meeting minutes. Judy appeared as both present and absent in the draft minutes. Motion made to approve corrected minutes by John, Bill seconded, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates
  - a. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick applications review. See Below
  - b. Ron Brooks, NRCS updates
    - Notified last week that they received funding for Lake Irrigation Project totaling approximately \$1 million
    - Still have to jump through hoops to get it started and handed over to engineering team
    - Durena asked more about timing to coordinate landowner hookup funding
      - o Ron said that he's not sure on a timeline because it depends on the engineers. It will probably not be ready by next spring, but he will keep the District updated.
    - 8 projects funded by NRCS this year – totaling \$1.2 million
      - o 4 forestry contracts
      - o 1 irrigation contract
      - o 1 big water management contract
      - o 2 smaller projects associated with big water management contract
      - o None of these contracts qualified for Source water priority area funding, SPA list is quite limited for Valley County because the listed practices are not as common
    - NRCS switch from cost share to flat rate
      - o Started 12-14 years ago and became permanent in 2012
      - o Used to pay a percent of conservation practice up to a certain amount. NRCS would collect receipts, figure out %, and then reimburse landowner
      - o To simplify and streamline payment process, NRCS now uses set payment rates to pay a flat rate to landowners after the installation is done and meets specifications
  - c. Bill Lillibridge, Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC updates
    - ISWCC is switching State payment programs, if VSWCD is contacted for updated information, need to respond ASAP
    - VSWCD was awarded one WQPA contract for \$187,622 (total project cost)
      - o Contract needs finalized
      - o District will be collecting \$13,090 in administrative fees
    - IDWR aging infrastructure grant
      - o 1<sup>st</sup> round closes Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>
      - o 2<sup>nd</sup> round closes Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
      - o Grant will cover up to 1/3 of project cost
      - o IDWR is looking for projects that serve as many water users as possible. Last year projects that only served one landowner were not approved
      - o Board would like to look into Black Pine Deer Farm landowner that has approached them about aging gate structure in the past
    - Final and Match reporting due Aug 16<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Lenard Long NFPR Watershed Coalition update and Agenda Review, FoLC monitoring report
    - FoLC Monitoring Report
      - o Last year had a June bloom, but Lake looking good for now
      - o Lake is making a transition and bioactivity is increasing

- June 21<sup>st</sup> was peak lake fill at 97%, today 93%
    - SLRWSD Update - Pump-out program outreach is progressing
    - NFPR Watershed Coalition
      - Steering committee meeting happened on June 20<sup>th</sup>
      - Public outreach at Payette Land Trust Conservation Day in McCall by Durena and Kaylee. Star News article of District Display, Kaylee Tuning and local child.
      - For first Coalition meeting, Lenard will contact Governor Little and Representative Matt Bundy to see if they will be keynote speakers
      - Mission statement – Board Input
        - Judy would like to see it make more personal “improve your water supply” “impact your drinking water”
        - John would like to see better description of what watershed we’re addressing
        - Pam thinks we need to include measurable goals
        - Maureen provided insight on quantifying economic impact/loss to build buy-in (especially in Cascade)
      - Would like Board Input on Benefits of the Coalition at first Coalition meeting
  - e. Pam Pace Water Outlook report
    - At 99% precipitation for the water year
    - Below normal at McCall (70%) for April, May, and June
      - Currently 60 cfs inflow/outflow (normal is 240 cfs) from Payette Lake
      - Concerned that water quality in Lake Cascade is going to drop rapidly because inflow is less than outflow
      - Valley County still in drought – abnormally dry
  - Cloud Seeding Meeting
    - Kala Golden presented status report to bring everyone up to speed
    - VSWCD needs to attend next meeting (July 20<sup>th</sup>)
    - Recommended District work with Dist 65 to be more competitive for funding opportunities
      - \$7 million budget
      - Study funding is going to Lemhi and Bear River b/c of water calls
      - Upper Snake, Salmon Falls, and State of Utah looking for project funding too
2. **Action Item:** After board input, Bill Leaf moved to approve ISWCC District Survey, Colt Brown seconded, motion carried with all in favor.
    - District Survey for ISWCC is due July 31<sup>st</sup>.
    - Board discussed and filled out survey for Durena to send to ISWCC.
  3. **Action Item:** Colt moved to accept Kindsvater Pivot Conversion contract, John seconded, motion passed with all in favor - Signed by Art. Board discussed the definition of “wild” in the contract, determined that you’re moving a temporary dam in your ditches to move water around
  4. 49 total WQPA projects were funded
    - a. 43 districts applied
    - b. 4 districts received funding for 2 projects
 

Projects funded included Irrigation conversion, livestock watering, pivot conversion, road pipeline conversion. For more information on ranking criteria for 2<sup>nd</sup> projects, contact Loretta.
  5. **Action Item:** Website review and approval with McKenzie Kramer. Bill Leaf motioned to approve and publish website, Judy seconded, motion passed with all in favor. Website name remains as valleyswcd.org
  6. McKenzie also gave a breakdown of website maintenance costs
    - a. Moving Domain ~ \$30
    - b. Annual Domain Registration ~ \$30
    - c. Annual Hosting Fee ~ \$150
  7. Bill Lillibridge commented on scrubbing documents published to the website for personal information and relayed that if there are any questions to look into ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program)
  8. McKenzie will send Durena and Kaylee updated website login information
  9. Valley County BOCC meeting July 10, 1:30pm with VSWCD Supervisor Match Support letter for commissioner signature.

10. Need Commissioners to sign match reports
11. Need to give summary of projects
12. Need to give update on Coalition progress
13. Office Space Issue
  - a. Lenard and Durena will create a Cost Benefit Sheet that shows how much money the district is bringing to the county compared to how much the county spends on the district
    - This will also include
  - b. Lenard will also compile a list of alternate spaces that the District as looked into:
    - Courthouse Space
    - U of I Extension Office
    - Houses for sale along Main St in Cascade
    - AmeriTitle Office Space for Rent
    - Space in Donnelly and McCall
  - c. Bill Lillibridge suggested looking into the District purchasing their own space
    - Seen this done when property owners take a tax loss to charitable organization
    - Seen property owners essentially donate office space to a district (they sold it for \$1)
    - District could develop alternative income streams – e.i. ask to tax landowners to fund District
  - d. Art will present documents to BOCC at meeting

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Idaho Power cloud seeding operations, July 13<sup>th</sup> Planning & Zoning Commissioners, Shaun Parkinson ID Power has submitted their letter to P&Z, they are waiting to see if the P&Z commission will approve the addition of the liquid propane generators without a formal CUP
2. P&Z meeting is on July 13, John Lillehaug will attend and will touch base with Shaun Parkinson to see if they need any further assistance.
3. Forestry Tour and Seedling sales update from John Lillehaug. Over 40 people participated in Forestry Tour Seedling sale – not sure on final dollar total, but sold ~5,700 seedlings with ~1000 left to sell
4. No-Till Drill Update from Bill Leaf - New ramps have been installed on trailer at less-than-expected cost, drill is ready for rental.
5. Commissioner approved VSWCD and Parametrics work session re: site grading and stormwater questions, to include ISWCC State Engineer Bill Lillibridge, NRCS Maureen Pepper. Durena will contact county engineer for availability and then send out meeting dates to rest of attendees. Board expressed importance of inviting IDWR and IDFG in addition to county, city, local, and ISWCC engineers
6. Kaylee Tuning presented an overview of coalition building based on, “Systems Thinking for Social Change” by David Peter Stroh. Slides attached.

#### **FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:**

1. **Action Item:** John motioned to accept and file Treasurer’s Report: QB register reports, bank reconciliations for May 31, 2023 General account and 319 account including Board approved recurring payments including Zply 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 passed with all in favor.
2. June payments made include S716 Star News Advertising \$660 (reimbursement to Lenard Long), S696 Twin Peaks Invoice, S602 BMP Payments City of Cascade \$26,000, Valley Co Road Department, Quenzer Creek improvements \$35,000

#### **P & Z JULY 13, 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:**

1. CUP 23-24 FedEx Hub postponed from June 15, 2023- variance from 100 ft setback from Hwy 55
2. CUP 23-27 Lake Fork Merc Additional Fuel Tank, above ground tanks with concrete pads
3. CUP 23-28 Falconer Solar Panels - detached panels for personal use at 505 Collier View Rd. Ponderosa Shores Subdivision. Existing panels, bringing into compliance
4. CUP 23-29 Gearheard Glamping Site Short term rental 41 Stanley Dr, Crown Point Subdivision
  14. Geodome on wooden deck to be used as a rental
  15. Lenard asked if it will have septic? Cynda said yes.
5. CUP 23-30 Green Valley Subdivision – Preliminary Plat 24 acres, 10 lot mixed use subdivision, Individual septic, individual wells off Coho Lane, On old railroad bed with shared driveway
6. CUP 23-31 Pishi Solar Panels detached solar panels for personal use, 97 Alpha Lane
7. CUP 23-32 Bar 5 Subdivision – Preliminary and final plat, Individual septic, individual well
8. CUP 23-34 SIMRA Mud Drag Event August 26, 2023 then annually. Weant Lane, parking, portable toilets and food trucks. Bill Lillibridge asked if it is in a wetland or if they will be creating the mudding hole. Cynda advised that they are building it.

9. CUP 23-22 Activity Barn Amendment to CUP 16-13 Activity Barn proposed hours of operation 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Market, non-motorized recreation and two residential dwelling units for employee housing. Entrance and exit onto Moonridge Dr. 141 Moonridge Drive.
10. Other - Appeal of Administrative Decision requiring CUP for Solar Panels 13643 Morris Ranch Road 16. Garnet Valley PUD tabled to July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Date Reminders:

*July 13 P & Z 6 p.m.*

*July 13 P&Z Commission hearing on CS sites*

*July 31 Conservation District Survey Due*

*August 3 VSWCD July Board Meeting*

*August 7-12 Valley County Fair & Rodeo*

*August 16 ISWCC Match Report Due*

*Sept 30 CWMP Reporting Period End Date (Report due 10/30/23) Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.*

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Approved:** *August 3, 2023*

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