

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Absent & Excused: Supervisor Bill Leaf

Other Present: Kaylee Tuning, VSWCD

Others Online: Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Dani Terhaar, IDEQ

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 am by Art Troutner

Action Item: John Lillehaug moved to approve and sign August 3, 2023 minutes. Draft minutes emailed to board. Judy Anderson seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates
 - a. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick provided Sept 14 application reviews for applications listed below. She also informed the board that Garnet Valley had been moved to October meeting. If new information is provided, then testimony and comments will be taken on those specific items. VSWCD had no comments to submit. Cynda also informed the board that they had been awarded the Outstanding Plan Award for the Waterways Management Plan.
 - b. Neither Ron Brooks nor Erin Morra from NRCS were available to provide updates.
 - c. Meghan Brooksher provided update on 2025 budget that was recently submitted to the legislature. If approved, there would be an additional \$75,400 available as distribution to districts as match funding (3% increase above the last general fund appropriation). Meghan asked if Supervisor Colt Brown could go to current WQPA location to take “before” photos at landowner’s property. Colt agreed and will send photos to Durena. Kaylee asked if Meghan had heard of any updates on Davis Dam project. Meghan will contact Bill Lillibridge and find out if there are any updates.
 - d. Lenard Long provided Lake Cascade Monitoring, S716 Septic Pilot Program, and NFPR Watershed Coalition updates. Lake Cascade water cyanobacteria growth (mass density) is slightly ahead of last year’s at this time. Lake level is at 64%. August anomalies included 2.5 inches of precipitation and Boulder Creek bloom with potentially undiscovered type of algae. John Lillehaug asked if the large amount of precipitation led to increased runoff from last year’s 4-Corners Fire. Lenard commented that he sampled turbidity during the storm and did not think that there were stream blowouts that hugely impacted the lake. Please review recorded meeting for more information.

The S716 Septic Pilot Program has funds available to accept 2 more applicants before October. Grant closes 12/31/23. Public perception was a barrier to getting the project off the ground, but would now call this pilot program a success. Lenard also advised that SepticSmart Week is the third week of September. It was suggested that the District create educational social media posts in honor of the event.

Many NFPR Watershed Coalition activities are on hold while Durena is out of town. Kaylee Tuning submitted her two-week notice ending Friday, September 8th. Judy asked if there was anything the Board could do to make this transition and hiring a new program administrator easier. Kaylee suggested having a meeting to clarify governance of Coalition grant and to review the program administrator job description. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and would like to have a meeting before the next NFPR Watershed Steering Committee meeting. Art expressed that, since the goal of the coalition is to create a management plan, maybe a water-shed wide assessment needs to be done before moving forward. Lenard and Pam commented that the 2000 DEQ Cascade Reservoir Implementation Plan and IDWR’s report from the 90s have already done a lot of this research.

The board discussed that it has not been assessed if implemented projects are still functioning, like with S-end fencing project where the fence has been cut and cattle are in the lake. Judy suggested that a maintenance plan be written into the management plan. Lenard expressed that this issue is from snowmobilers cutting the fence in the winter. He suggested installing gates that could be opened in the fall for snowmobile access and closed in spring for cattle exclusion. Judy suggested that District approaches snowmobile associations to pay to install gates. Pam recommended District attend monthly recreation meeting that is headed by her husband and meets in McCall. Cynda advised that Valley Co Parks & Rec Committee has also recently been formed and is headed by Larry Laxton. Dani Terhaar suggested that NFPRWC “recreation” stakeholders should maybe attend both meetings.

The Willow Creek WMA Fire Fund project proposal was not discussed at this time.

- e. Pam Pace provided a watershed water outlook, Governor’s Water Summit, watershed user’s proposed nonprofit to purchase uncontracted USBR water, and cloud seeding update. August precipitation was 2.74” at McCall. Normal is 0.54”. The low temperature was higher than the average and the high temperature was lower than the average for August. Inflow to Cascade Reservoir was 18,000 acre-ft; normal is 7,600 acre-ft. Unusually, Aug 24-26 all water rights were filled with natural flow. She also reported that Gary Spackman, director of IDWR retired Sept 1. and Matt Weaver was appointed to this position by Governor Little.

At the Water Summit, the governor stated that his water priorities are 1. Protect sovereignty of water 2. Protect water quantity 3. Protect water quality. Lieutenant Governor Bedke said we need to provide sustainable water for future generations. All presenters at the summit talked about declining water supplies and most presenters expressed that there is a need to increase water measurement and provide real-time water flow data to the public. Kresta Davis, IPC, said cloud seeding costs \$4/AF, the cheapest water in the state. The developer of Avimore also gave a presentation and mentioned that they are using less than half of water used in typical community at 100 gal/day/home. Pam suggested that Lt. Gov. Bedke would be a good speaker for a NFPRW Coalition meeting, that coalition presence at regional water meetings might be beneficial, and helping municipalities in Valley Co conserve water like Avimore may be something the District could help coordinate. For more information, please review recorded meeting.

At a recent Valley County Commissioner’s meeting, USBR representatives and local landowners discussed water users forming a non-profit to purchase uncontracted space. USBR said others have requested space and were denied. It was argued that Payette Basin irrigation companies need the money from selling rental pool water to flow augmentation to make farming sustainable and to maintain older infrastructure. Valley County irrigators are worried about increase from \$3.50 to \$7.00 next year. Pam pointed out that rental pool water costs \$40-\$62/AF for in-basin in the Upper Snake and \$20/AF in the Boise. Meghan added that IDWR offers Aging Infrastructure Grants that cover 33% of project. Deadlines for these applications are 12/1/2023. For more information, please review recorded meeting.

Pam also reported that the Idaho Water Resource Board has not made a decision about priority areas for cloud seeding expansion.

- f. There were no other guest reports or topics.
2. Brush Creek vault and bank restoration update. Vault ordered, VSWCD set up and ready for payment under new IDEQ AMPLIFUND 319 and State AG invoicing system going forward (beginning with Brush Creek and Hot Springs Fence projects).
 3. Hot Springs WMA Riparian Fence project with ICC 3.5 miles, start date 9/5/23 at Willow Creek WMA for project training with Rod Willet and Jason Dobis. ICC staying at Van Wyck Campground. Grant will cover skid steer with post pounder arranged by Rod Willet. ICC providing side-by-side materials trailer. Cascade Rec Center offered to donate 5 passes for ICC crew to use therapy pool.
 4. IASCD State Conference Registrations for VSWCD Supervisors (first time discount). New IASCD Executive Director Travis Jones. Durena requested to attend for Admin meeting and District Coalition Display. Judy Anderson moved to approve Durena’s request and pay for expenses. Colt seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

5. Board reviewed Jon Rand, Arrowhead Point Property Owners Association, letter to BOCC. Board appreciated the concern the association has for water quality issues on Lake Cascade. Kaylee clarified that the Arrowhead Point Property Owners and Valley County P&Z are on coalition contact list.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. John Lillehaug provided a seedling sales update. Final two invoices have been paid, but John and Durena need to meet before reporting final figures.
2. BOCC approved VSWCD and engineers work session to address site grading and stormwater calculation questions, VSWCD Art Troutner, ISWCC Bill Lillibridge, NRCS Maureen Pepper, Parametrics Engineer, USGS Engineer, City Engineers, Cynda Herrick and others TBD. Art asked how the board could best prepare for this meeting. Lenard said he would give a short presentation at the November board meeting to provide background information.
3. S741 and S742 Pivot Conversion invoices submitted to IDEQ for Payment. Waiting on landowner equipment and time invoices before final payment awarded.
4. Garnet Valley comment and stormwater review has been tabled to October 2nd meeting. VSWCD had no additional comments to submit.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to postpone acceptance of Treasurer's Report: QB register reports, bank reconciliations for August 31, 2023 General account and 319 account including Board approved recurring payments including Ziplly Fiber, NPERS, PERSI and Payroll Processing (includes payroll payment to US Treasury and quarterly payroll payments by Central Mountain CPA) to October 5th board meeting since Durena is out of town. Colt Brown seconded and motioned carried with all in favor.
2. John Lillehaug moved to discuss FY24 Operating Budget Action Item at October 5th board meeting. Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

P & Z SEPTEMBER 14, 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:

1. CUP 22-25 Paddy Summit Subdivision
2. V-2-23 Clover Valley Properties Sign Variance UI logo on grain bins 12765 HWY 55
3. VAC 23-02 Vacation of Utility and Drainage Easement and V-3-23 Peterson Setback
4. CUP 23-35 Dobson Multiple Residences two residences, one well, two septic 42 Fleming Lane
5. CUP 23-36 Pratchett Auto Repair Shop 34 Goslin Loop

Facts & Conclusions:

CUP 23-15 Mullin Multiple Residences; CUP 23-25 Acker Tree Service; CUP 23-33 Ritter Solar Panels

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Date Reminders:

Sept 16th PLT Shindig (See Flyer)

Sept 30 CWMP Reporting Period End Date (Report due 10/30/23)

Oct 5 Board meeting

Oct 2 Division III Fall Meeting RSVP, meeting Oct 10

Nov 6 WCMEDC 6th annual Regional Economic Summit, A Stronger Future Together. Details emailed

Nov 8-9 79th Annual IASCD Annual Conference Riverside Boise

Dec 20, 2023 District Performance Report Due

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

The VSWCD Board meetings are recorded. Use the following link to access the recording of this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ of8yMDF6-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/of8yMDF6-JxgBNUKH6LipfYixftkbgKYQqVGJTKcG5FRJubOzQ3kEzM4r32Qn2.7DhC3TUig2tGWbwi?startTime=1694097839000)

[JxgBNUKH6LipfYixftkbgKYQqVGJTKcG5FRJubOzQ3kEzM4r32Qn2.7DhC3TUig2tGWbwi?startTime=1694097839000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/of8yMDF6-JxgBNUKH6LipfYixftkbgKYQqVGJTKcG5FRJubOzQ3kEzM4r32Qn2.7DhC3TUig2tGWbwi?startTime=1694097839000)

Passcode: cYfW@5^X

Chairman: _____

Date Approved: October 5, 2023

Minutes prepared by Kaylee Tuning for Durena Farr, District Manager