

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85982259039?pwd=endPdkROtjBkT115bUtsQzh4SVIIUT09>

9:11 a.m. Call to Order

Members Present: Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Judy Anderson,

Members Absent & Excused: Colt Brown, Bill Leaf,

Other Present: Durena Farr VSWCD

Others Online: Associate Supervisors Pam Pace (online) and Lenard Long (online), Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; David Watkins and Jeff Bateman, JUB Engineers; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Maureen Pepper, NRCS; Daina Aguas, NFPRWC Admin; Darcy Sharp, IDEQ; Ron Brooks, NRCS; Neil Shippy; Mike Poulos, USBR; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Jordan Messner, IDFG; Rebecca Goehring

Meeting called to order at 9:11 AM by Art Troutner

ACTION ITEM: John Lillehaug motioned to approve and sign minutes from November 2, 2023. 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. Ron Brooks NRCS update
 - Currently working through eligibility for 2024 EQIP applications. There are about 80 applications being evaluated that will be ranked within a month or so. There are 13 Valley County applications right now: irrigation, streambank, forestry, pastureland projects. There is close to 1 million dollars available for the 80 projects.
 - There were 9 EQIP contracts for Valley County in FY23. Valued at just under 1 million dollars. 5 are forestry and 4 are irrigation projects.
 - b. Cynda Herrick applications review
 - Sands 55 final application review (just north of the FedEx building on HW55). The irrigation district is working on this with them.
 - CUP 21-32 Lake Fork Village Condos and Offices extension request (on the corner of pleasant acres and HW55)
 - V-4-23 Concrete Plant Height Variance Knife River Corporation
 - CUP 23-47 Moser Subdivision Preliminary and Final Plat Individual well and septic. This will correct an illegally made split that occurred 20 years ago by the previous owner.
 - CUP 23-48 Clear Creek Recreation Site and Campground (Valley County) 19 sites, vault toilet. 5 acres in total. 289 Clear Creek Road.
 - CUP 23-49 Lamms' multiple Residences and short-term rentals (north of Coho estates) - two individual wells and septic. On a 20 acre parcel on an adjoining 30 acre piece. There are ponds that may or may not have approval.
 - McGregor's site application will be on January Hearing Notice. Application for 335 units connected to NLRWSD sewer and water, located on the corner of Old State road and Loomis.
 - c. ISWCC Megan Brooksher WQPA FY2023 update- about 80% of projects throughout the state have been completed to date. This is an improvement from last year. The payment application for Valley SWCD project was submitted yesterday \$143,989. This payment should be available in two weeks. The landowner will receive \$130, 899. VSWCD WQPA admin funds allocation is \$13,090.
 - FY2025 WQPA projects: VSWCD should get ready to start talking about WQPA to state legislators as it will be addressed in Gov Little's state of state address on January 8. We won't know if FY2025 WQPA will be funded until the spring.
 - Be thinking about projects that could be done under WQPA and send them to Durena Farr.
 - A two paged fact sheet on WQPA will be out soon and sent to Durena Farr
 - Performance reports are due on Dec 20, 2023.
 - We are waiting on the permitting process for S696 Strand project.
 - d. Michael Poulos, USBR Cascade WQ modeling update

- Poulos is the lead for the modeling team on a Cascade Reservoir water quality project. It explores reservoir operation models on water quality. The model explored how different uses will affect reservoir algal blooms. The model looks great so far and is being tested by Portland State who developed the model. The study and models should be completed next December.
 - The goal is to simulate the algae load in Cascade Reservoir by simulating various conditions and uses.
 - Pam Pace asked about what models are being used to predict climate. Mike Poulos said that historical weather information is used. The effects of climate change will not be included in the results of this study next December.
 - Water quality parameters for this study include dissolved oxygen, nutrient levels, temperature, water flow rate, decay of organic matter.
 - A Town Hall outreach session was held last year to gather feedback on desired models. Lenard Long will forward more observations on the reservoir to Mike Poulos.
- e. Pam Pace updates: Lake Cascade, discussion and District response, Boat wash update
- Watershed outlook - Nothing is known about local snowpack and precipitation yet because it is too early in the season.
 - Payette Lake Marina is a highly controversial subject, local people may feel that water quality concerns are not being met and building permits are being given without knowledge.
 - Tamarack Marina Expansion: Lenard Long said that the environmental studies for this project have not been done yet and that the comment period has not opened yet. Art Troutner said that VSWCD will probably comment on marina expansion.
 - Pam Pace: McCall Planning and zoning has approved the request and it will be taken to City Council. A boat washing station and payment kiosk provided by the city has been proposed along with the Payette Lake marina expansion. This is also a space to provide educational materials about how to properly steward the lake. The owner of Mile High Marina is interested in a boat washing station.
- f. NFPR Watershed Coalition updates: letter of support to City of McCall (drafted by Judy Anderson). NFPR Coalition and steering committee #6 Dec 14th, Regional meetings set: Jan. 11 Donnelly, Jan 17 Cascade, Jan. 24 McCall; Full Coalition Meeting, all regions, Feb 15 site and time TBD. Board input. Poster input, social media input, Star News input on Max Silverson's questions for Holiday article.
- Judy Anderson has written a letter requesting support to the City of McCall.
 - Durena Farr suggested that VSWCD send a similar letter to the other cities.
 - Pam Pace suggested that letters of support go out to other federal agencies.
 - Lenard Long reported on the 5th steering committee meeting and another meeting with Major Judy Nissula.
 - There will be three social events for the NFPR Coalition Kickoff: January 11 at Donnelly Community Center, January 17th at Cascade American Legion, January 24th at the Glass House in McCall. The meetings will feature a short presentation on the Coalition, a short Q&A on the mission, and food and networking time. Interactive maps will be available for the public to view. The first full Coalition meeting will be on February 15 and the location is TBD.
 - The outreach materials for the brochure and posters have been drafted. Star News has been contacted about releasing piece about the Coalition kickoffs that will be released via the holiday edition.
- g. EPA Pollutant Load Estimation Tool presentation by Lenard Long with IDEQ Darcy Sharp 17 yr Water Quality Scientist using this tool since 2003: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/plet>
- This tool is useful for landowners to estimate nutrient loads from different land use. The model can be programed to input best management practices and predict results. This tool is also useful for grant applications.
 - The tool allows users to select a watershed, weather station, best management practices, current nutrient loads, seasonal use, etc. to compare hypothetical property drainage.
 - Septic failure rate: Valley County has a lot of old systems with higher failure rates. This can be accounted for in the estimation tool. Seasonal use should also be considered. 6% of Cascade Reservoir's nutrient loading comes from failed septic systems.
 - This model is useful for understanding which areas and agencies should work towards improvement. Lenard Long plans on talking to Planning and Zoning and the Health District about this information.
- h. Jeff Bateman, PLRWSD and David Watkins, JUB Engineering provided PLRWSD update.

- David Watkins is moving forward with the Sewer Board. The remediation project will change course soon. The liner project expected to start this winter.
 - The IDEQ grant is due on January 12, 2014. This project includes more than the liner project.
 - There is not a need for a joint workshop with the VSWCD and the Sewer District until the IDEQ grant application goes through.
 - Projects include an area right along the North Fork of the Payette (less than 100 homes that are still on septic drain fields that need to be converted to sewer). Grant funding and loan forgiveness is a part of this but the financial details are unknown right now. A bond election is also part of this.
 - Durena Farr mentioned that VSWCD would consider a joint grant if it would help secure additional funding for sewer improvements. David Watkins will report back to Durena on this comment.
2. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to sign ISWCC 2023 Performance Report Certification for Dec 20 report submission. Judy Anderson seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. BOCC approved VSWCD and Parametric 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.
2. S716 Septic Pilot, S741 Pivots Nicholson and S724 Pivots Brown final reports due 12/31/23 along with final invoices.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept the November 2, 2023 Treasurer's report, Art Troutner seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file treasurers Report for December 7, 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), seconded by Judy Anderson. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. **Action Item:** Discussion on VSWCD FY24 Operating Budget moved to the January 2024 meeting. Approved. John Lillehaug asked if annual reimbursement for mileage and registration fees would be applicable. The board agreed that it is not a financial dilemma to provide reimbursements at this time. This will be put into the draft budget.

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

1. CUP 21-32 Lake Fork Village Condos and Offices
2. V-4-23 Concrete Plant Height Variance Knife River Corporation
3. CUP 23-47 Moser Subdivision Preliminary and Final Plat Individual well and septic
4. CUP 23-48 Clear Creek Recreation Site and Campground (Valley County) 19 sites, vault toilet
5. CUP 23-49 Lamm multiple Residences and short Term Rentals two individual wells and septic

Facts and Conclusions: Action Items for comment

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Date Reminders:

Dec 14 Planning & Zoning

Dec 20, 2023 District Performance Report Due

January 4, 2024 VSWCD Board Meeting

January 11 Donnelly Coalition Regional Social and Coalition Introduction

January 17 Cascade Coalition Regional Social and Coalition Introduction

January 24 McCall Coalition Regional Social and Coalition Introduction

February 15 NFPR Watershed Coalition combined kickoff meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 11:22 AM

Chairman: _____ **Date Approved:** January 4, 2024

Minutes prepared by Daina Aguas