**VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**JANUARY MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 4, 2024, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING**

**9:06 A.M. Call to Order**

**Members Present:** Supervisors Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Judy Anderson

**Members Present Online:** Colt Brown

**Members Absent and Excused**: None

**Others Present:**, Durena Farr VSWCD District Manager, Daina Aguas NFPRWC Admin

**Others Online:** Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Dani Terharr, DEQ; Associate Supervisors Lenard Long and Pam Pace

**Action Item:** Art Troutner requested a motion to approve and sign December 7, 2023 minutes. Megan Brooksher cited correction for WQPA project completed percentage of 20%. Durena Farr said the corrections were already included with version up for approval. Pam Pace cited that the McCall boat wash station was “discussed” by the city of McCall not “proposed”. The Board noted this correction. Art Troutner moved to approve and sign corrected December 7, 2023 minutes. John Lillehaug seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

a. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick January 11th applications review

- Camp Modern is a glamping opportunity on HWY 55. It has been approved. There are concerns to be reviewed about keeping their guests on sight and the placement of the sign.

- Buttercup Custom Chalets Preliminary Plat: has been postponed indefinitely because it is over 5 lots and there has not been a neighborhood meeting yet. They must take care of this requirement and then request that it be put back on the agenda.

- Lower Sugarloaf Custom Chalets Preliminary Plat: the original approval was for 8 multi family townhomes. The parcel was created as open space and they have now come back for the approval of three lots. They are not near approaching the 50% open space limit. - MacGregor Townsite: did not go into detail. Letter from VSWCD was received. - CUP 23-52 Phase 1 Preliminary Plat.

b. Ron Brooks or Erin Morra NRCS update.

- Neither were present for an update. Megan Brooksher will talk to Ron Brooks about providing an update for NRCS at every board meeting.

c. ISWCC Megan Brooksher update; Bill Lillibridge ISWCC

- Joe Peterson has vacated his commission position at the Boise office. Sarah Q. has filled this position.

- The IASCD legislative social event will be on the evening January 15. The commissioners have been invited.

- The 2025 fiscal year budget request will be presented on January 17.

- The budget for WQPA will be set on Friday, January 19 at the latest.

- Next commission board meeting, 9AM January 16

- 5 year and annual plans are due March 31.

- WQPA landowner checks for landowners have been signed and are ready to be dispersed – Durena Farr.

- District displays will be present at the legislative social and not at the capitol.

d. Pam Pace, NFPR Watershed Water Supply outlook; Cloud Seeding update; Valley County Waterways meeting and Boat Wash update

- We are back in abnormally dry drought because the snowpack is terrible.

- The entire Columbia basin is in trouble due to lower than average snowpack.

- Bear Basin is at record low for precipitation.

- The entire Payette Basin is less than 50% of median snowpack. The precipitation is higher due to more warm days.

- Northwest River Forecast Center shows that we are at 72% of normal water supply. It is still possible to catch up to normal water supply conditions.

- There will likely be more runoff this year due to saturated soil. The potential for getting good storms in coming months is relatively high.

- It is still too early in the season to despair over low snowpack.

- Cloud Seeding: water resource board does not have any upcoming meetings for cloud seeding. The November meeting presentations will be posted soon and can be used for answering questions and sharing information.

- All the current cloud seeding programs are started by stakeholders that contribute funds. It has been recommended that we contact Neil Shippy at Water District 65. The Water District has said that they don’t have the money to contribute to cloud seeding. This is still a potential connection with which to address water quality topics. The NFPRWC might mention water and weather changes in upcoming meetings.

- Cloud seeding can address topics involving weather changes.

- Invasive species will be discussed at the upcoming meeting for Valley County Waterways on February 6 at 9AM. A local organization must manage an inspection station. Jordan Messner recommended that Payette Lake should be considered for boat wash stations but may not be considered as high priority due to the low calcium levels. Other surrounding waterways may be a risk for bringing invasive species into local waterways.

- Pam Pace: New water recreation businesses between Cascade and McCall may be good candidates for getting involved with boat washing. The State provides training for boat wash stations.

- Brownley is a high-risk area for quagga mussels to populate, which means that boat wash stations near and within Valley County are crucial. VSWCD should consider contacting state representatives to get funding for boat wash.

e. NFPR Watershed Coalition updates: NFPR Coalition and steering committee #7, 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. Social media input, Star News Jan 4th feature

- Poster distribution still needs to happen. Volunteers are needed.

- A social media launch is on Facebook.

- The email announcement for the coalition list will come out soon. Troubleshooting is required. - Cynda Herrick suggested that county commissioners should be contacted to serve on the NFPRWC steering committee.

f. Cascade Reservoir watersheds – maps and TMDL phosphorus and sediment targets from 2018 5 yr review as a P & Z guide

- There is a discussion about the boundaries for the cascade reservoir watershed. There is confusion about the technical terms to use when speaking about land parcels (USGS or DEQ nomenclature) . The DEQ nomenclature has been decided on and they will be referenced to as assessment units.

g. Other guest reports and topics

- It has been suggested that Dani Terharr present the state of the watershed presentation on February 15 during business hours. David Nichols will facilitate the February 15 meeting.

**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. The board is waiting for availability with Bill Lillibridge.

2. Durena provided update on S716 Septic Pilot, S741 Pivots Nicholson and S742 Pivots Brown final reports, final invoices. Nicholson’s final report is ready to submit. Brown final report needs to have second pivot correction and photos added. They have been invoiced and landowners paid.

3. There is a board meeting this month for the Southlake Sewer District. Lenard Long invited a DEQ affiliated funding organization and requested to use the VSWCD zoom account for the meeting.

**FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:**

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file treasurers Report for December 31, 2023. General account and 319 account including Board approved recurring payments including Ziply Fiber, NPERS, PERSI and Payroll Processing (includes payroll payment to US Treasury and quarterly payroll payments by Central Mountain CPA) John Lillehaug stated that the financial report looks clean and has been reviewed. Bill Leaf seconded it and the motion carried with all in favor.

2. IWCF Final no till drill payment received of $2,951.00. Supervisors signed a card of appreciation for IWCF.

3. **Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to review the operating budget to the February 1, 2024 after Supervisors mileage reimbursements can be calculated. John L. seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

**P & Z JANUARY 11 , 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:**

1. CUP 22-16 Camp Modern Annual Review

2. Tamarack Resort PUD 98-1 Amendment and CUP 23-50 Phase 3.6 Buttercup Custom Chalets Preliminary Plat

3. Tamarack Resort PUD 98-1 Amendment and CUP 23-51 Phase 3.4 Lower Sugarloaf Custom Chalets Preliminary Plat

4. PUD 23-02 MacGregor Townsite and CUP 23-52 Phase 1 Preliminary Plat

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

VSWCD hosts the 2024 forestry tour. John L proposed June 19There is a draft brochure prepared, ready for agenda and locations to be added. Forests are the largest land mass in Valley County which makes it an important discussion point for water and soil quality. for the forestry tour.

Tree seedling sale: John L. reported that seedlings may be hard to get ahold of this year. John L. has contacted Twin Peaks and requested that they grow seedlings for VSWCD. Twin Peaks has agreed but 2025 would be the soonest date for access. The price would be high. The UI Pitkin Nursery may also be an option for seedlings. Lucky Peak Nursery will not have anything available. VSWCD has distributed roughly 4,000 seedlings within the local watershed. Anywhere between 200-300 seedlings should be planted per acre for reforesting. 10-20 seedlings may be planted in a lot with buildings.

Lenard Long: the McCall chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a benefit dinner on February 1st in McCall. All board members will receive an invitation. Trout Unlimited has supported the district efforts for years.

***Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.***

Date Reminders:

***Jan 11, 17, 24 NFPR Coalition Community Meetings 4-6 p.m.***

***Jan 11 Valley Co P & Z 6 pm***

***Feb 1 VSWCD Board Meeting 9 am***

***Feb 6 Valley County Waterways meeting and boat wash discussion***

***Feb 15 NFPR Coalition Combine Community Workshop***

***Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date Approved: Feb 1, 2024 Minutes prepared by Daina Aguas, NFPRWC Admin***