

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FEBRUARY MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2024, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING

9 A.M. Call to Order at 9:08a.m.

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

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; Ron Brooks, NRCS, Neil Shippy, Water District 65; Associate Supervisors Lenard Long and Pam Pace

Action Item: Bill Leaf moved approve and sign corrected January 4, 2024 minutes. Pam Pace's status update on water runoff s correcting county runoff comment from Pam Pace. Draft minutes emailed to board.

Move from Bill Leaf to correct Pam Pace runoff comment on saturated soils to "more runoff "and request to differentiate in minutes between In-Person/Zoom attendance for VSWCD Board Members. Judy Anderson seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates
 - a. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick provided February applications review
 1. CUP 23-53 Troutner Multiple Residences, Individual Septics, shared well
 - two houses located on 19 acres off Elk Haven Way. South of Lake Fork. One house is already there. They will build another to the West.
 2. CUP 23-54 Lake Port Storage Amendment to CUP 18-11, Primary access Hwy 55 through Mile High Sports, secondary access Rogers Lane
 - proposal for additional two buildings just east of Mile High Power Sports. There is an existing ditch that runs through which they have not built on yet. The buildings are to the east of the ditch and will likely not affect the irrigation water.
 3. Proposal for the redo of the lower Sugar Loaf preliminary plat for Tamarack. They want to connect the dots better. A few more letters have been received.
 4. There will be a continuation of the McGregor Townsite. A few more letters have been received along with more information from the applicant. There will be more questions proposed to the applicant at the hearing. The comment period will follow.
 - b. Ron Brooks provided input on Farm ground mapping and priorities, EQIP update Feb 9 was the ranking deadline for the current EQIP application round.
 - There was a nationwide software issue concerning ranking applications, which has postponed this work during the last week. The deadline for the EQIP applications is now February 23. Valley County has 13 active applications in the system with a good diversity of projects. Durena Farr requested permission to include an update about current Valley County projects in the upcoming newsletter. Ron Brooks agreed to send follow-up information for this request.
 - Durena reported that it has been recommended that her two district laptops get updated and Ron will report back on when updated laptops can be provided.
 - Durena Farr asked for advice on how the district can provide information on soil surveys. Ron said that all the information is available on the web soil survey. NRCS can do tutorials on how to access the data but cannot produce maps for people. Cynda Herrick requested a copy of the email about accessing the web soil survey to share with Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission to understand how to define prime agricultural lands. The board discussed how variable and difficult it can be to define prime agricultural lands.
 - c. ISWCC Megan Brooksher update; Bill Lillibridge NW Passage Pond riverbank evaluation request from IDFG/Valley
 - Megan introduced Sarah Quidgen who will be working in the Boise ISWCC Office.
 - \$1.5 million has been distributed to WQPA projects. Some projects were underbudget, which allowed the committee to disperse extra funding to WQPA projects that did not receive primary funding. 51 projects have been funded. The governor's budget has recommended that \$1 million be available to WQPA projects this year. WQPA may not receive the full \$5 million for funding projects yet, which would mean applications would be more competitive and cost share would be lower. This has not been finalized yet.

- The budget hearing has not been rescheduled. The \$75,000 or 3% increase in funding request is still pending.
 - The maintenance budget was approved on Jan 19.
 - There are several programs waiting for funding including extra funds for districts (the \$75,000 mentioned above)
 - start getting a list of potential WQPA projects so Megan can do free reviews
 - The State Ag BMP grant deadline is March 15.
 - The district annual and five year review is due March 31. Durena requested an example plan and feedback from Megan.
 - Megan did not have any updates from Bill Lillibrige. Durena has asked Bill L. to evaluate another project and review a few items to close grants for the District.
- d. Pam Pace, NFPR Watershed Water Supply outlook; Cloud Seeding update (recent news outreach); Valley County Waterways meeting and Boat Wash update
- Slideshow from Pam Pace: McCall January temperature graph indicates that hit extremes for low on Jan 13 and set a high temperature record on Jan 30. U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that we moved up a category and now half the county is in moderate drought and the other half is in abnormally dry. The Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor graph indicates that Valley County is in drought more than half of the time. From the 1999 State Water Plan: The 1930s drought period was much worse than current. The 1920s and 1930s had record breaking low levels of precipitation. McCall Historical Annual Average Report indicates that 1925 was a hot summer and fall in comparison.
 - Snow pack report: The recent snowstorms moved southwest of Valley County. Valley County is currently at 75% of normal snowpack; Valley County may need to be concerned about recovering the missing snowpack. NWRFC Forecast explanation.
 - There is a meeting of the Valley County Waterways Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 9:00AM to discuss invasive species, boat inspection, and wash stations.
 - Cloud Seeding presentations now available on the North American Weather Modification Council website (NAWMC.org/links/). 8 hours of technical presentations with great information from Idaho Power. Durena Farr will share this information with Cynda Herrick at VC Planning and Zoning Commission.
 - Flow augmentation volume out of the two Payette reservoirs was 181,233 acre-feet in 2013, the highest volume since augmentation began in 1991 in the Payette Basin. This information could be important to include in Coalition discussion. Neil Shippy stated that the Million Acre Study reviewed low water level devastation on Idaho and Nez Perce land. Anyone within the District has a right to apply for cost-share programs.
 - Colt Brown requested information on El Niño/La Niña history. Pam said that the impacts of El Niño/La Niña are very scattered and not statistically significant in Valley County.
 - Durena Farr questioned how the District wants to proceed with Cloud Seeding project pilots and weather the District should contact them. Pam Pace would like to see a project involving the Coalition and Cloud Seeding. Durena Farr will reach out to Kala Golden about attending the Feb 15 Coalition meeting.
- e. NFPR Watershed Coalition updates: NFPR Coalition steering committee Zoom Monday 2/5 1pm.
- The community meetings had a good turnout and important connections were made between community members. The goal to introduce the topic to the public was successful. The first workshop will form workgroups, identify areas of interest, identify areas of concern on Feb 15. There will be a state of the watershed presentation. Daina Aguas and Durena Farr asked for input on the icebreaker activity for the Coalition.
 - Judy Anderson mentioned that people are having a hard time putting in general information about areas of concern. Agency members do not like putting in their email address. Offer the public the NFPRWC email to use.
 - Kala Golden needs updated information on the time/place of the workshop.
- f. Cascade Reservoir watersheds – maps and TMDL phosphorus and sediment targets from 2018 5 yr review as a P & Z guide
- Rollover from last month. These maps will be defined using Assessment Units per DEQ delineations. The goal is to have cohesive and consistent map information going forward for upcoming grants and projects.
- g. Other guest reports and topics
- Lake Irrigation District Meeting. Art Troutner met with engineers to discuss the pipeline plans for the East end of the District. About 95% of the pipeline is planned to go into the existing ditch. One small section may be changed so that it doesn't disrupt a wetland. The proposed pipe is not very large and has a good possibility

of happening. The pipeline would hypothetically be put in during Fall of 2025. Shirley Florence can send the area map via request. Durena Farr requested that we add that project to the coalition projects map at the Feb 15 NFPRWC workshop.

2. Division III Spring Meeting hosted by Adams SWCD, Council. Email sent to board, Judy Anderson and John Lillehaug responded to attend. Durena Farr will also attend weather permitting.

Action Item: Art Troutner moved to pay Division III Meeting mileage, registration fees of \$20 per person and door prize of \$20-30. Bill Leaf seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

3. Local Taxing District Election Information updated and submitted to Valley Co, Rich Richardson for November 2024 ballot. There are three supervisor positions up for election this year (Judy Anderson, Art Troutner, and Colt Brown). The current supervisors will be placed on the ballot for re-election. Durena will check on required paperwork for ballot applicants.

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. Crestline Engineers input at Cascade and McCall community meetings. Conversations with the Crestline engineers at the McCall and Cascade meetings indicated they are interested in staying up to date with stormwater calculations process conversations and inquiries.
2. S716 Septic Pilot, S741 Pivots Nicholson and S724 Pivots Brown final invoices and final reports are being completed and submitted to IDEQ by February 29th. Durena Farr will have these completed in the next two days.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file Treasurers Report for January 31, 2024. 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) Bank reconciliations have been completed and reviewed. Bill Leaf seconded and Motion passed with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to approve 2024 Envirothon contribution of \$100. Colt Brown seconded and motion passed with all in favor.
3. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to pay 2024 Division III IASCD dues of \$70.00. Bill Leaf seconded and motion passed with all in favor.
4. **Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to accept the FY24 Operating Budget. Colt Brown seconded and motion passed with all in favor.
 - Expenses balance with income. Durena Farr reserved a space for undefined projects. \$2000 for no-till drill repair. Supervisor reimbursements are reinstated now that in-person events are taking place again and budget allows.
 - Megan Brooksher asked a question about number of payroll hours on budget Durena advised that since hours vary the figure used for the budget was actual FY23 year-end payroll provided by District Payroll Accountant, Central Mtn CPA.
 - Durena Farr requested budget examples from other Districts from Megan Brooksher.

P & Z FEBRUARY 8, 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE:

1. CUP 23-53 Troutner Multiple Residences, Individual Septics, shared well.
2. CUP 23-54 Lake Port Storage Amendment to CUP 18-11, Primary access Hwy 55 through Mile High Sports, secondary access Rogers Lane

Facts and Conclusions-Action Items:

Tamarack Resort open space amendment

PUD 23-02 MacGregor Townsite and CUP 23-52 Phase 1 Preliminary Plat **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

-Judy Anderson inquired about the Cinnabar Superfund Site and Perpetua Resources. Idaho government officials have sent an email contesting the superfund site due to lack of public outreach. Donnelly and Cascade wrote a letter rejecting the proposal and McCall supported it. Judy questioned if VSWCD had been involved in public outreach for this superfund site.

-Judy volunteered to gather information on the proposal and bring it back to VSWCD. The water rights case is now public as of Jan 31, 2024.

-Durena Farr extended a verbal invite to Cynda Herrick, Planning and Zoning to the NFPRWC Steering Committee on Monday Feb. 5 at 1-3PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:04 AM by Art Troutner.

Date Reminders:

Feb 5 NFPR Watershed Coalition Steering Committee Meeting Zoom

Feb 6 Valley County Waterways meeting and boat wash discussion.

Feb 8 Valley County P & Z 6 p.m.

Feb 15 NFPR Coalition Combined Community Workshop Donnelly Bible Church 4-6 p.m.

Feb 27 Division III Spring Meeting Adams SWCD hosting in Council

Chairman: _____ **Date Approved:**
February 1, 2024 Minutes prepared by Daina Aguas, NFPRWC Admin