

**VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MARCH MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE**  
**THURSDAY MARCH 7, 2024, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING**

**Meeting called to order at 9:01a.m.**

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

**Members Absent and Excused:** None for general meeting, John Lillehaug absent and excused during VSWCD discussion of P & Z application CUP24-02 River Fork Ranch

**Others Present:** Durena Farr VSWCD District Manager,

**Others Online:** Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. Planning & Zoning; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Ron Brooks, NRCS; Associate Supervisors Lenard Long and Pam Pace

**Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to approve and sign February 1, 2024, minutes. Draft minutes emailed to board for review and changes. John Lillehaug seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

a. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick February provided applications review listed below

- Legacy Ranch at Whitetail Final Plat application will come back on March 14. It is an application for 6 residential lots on the border between Valley County and Adams County.
- Subdivision phase 2 final plot for 14 residential lots on the West Side of Harriet Hill (previously approved)
- CUP 22-16 Camp Modern – Annual Review pushed to April due to high volume P&Z schedule
- VAC 24-01 Vacation of portions of Bings Road and Brands Lane on West Mountain.
- VAC 24-02 Harris Vacation of Utility Easement. The lots must be vacated before they can combine the two lots.
- CUP 24-02 River Fork Ranch Subdivision – Preliminary Plat 1-1.78 acre size range. Developer plans on moving Mahala Ditch. Developer also plans to plot open space on the Northwest corner.
- Septic concern issue on local water resources was brought up. The applicant has applied to Central District Health. Cynda Herrick confirmed that a DEQ representative sent Idaho Statute data concerning this issue.
- Soil concern was also brought up. DEQ and the Central District Health have an MOU agreement to determine whether soils are adequate for septic systems. Legal advisors are currently reviewing this situation.
- The board discussed alternative septic treatment systems that may apply to local development and Central District Health approvals.
- Durena Farr questioned whether impaired waterways studies from the EPA had been considered for this application. Cynda Herrick requested the DEQ study referencing this information.
- Stormwater plans can receive comments from VSWCD after draft publishing.
- Cynda Herrick confirmed that the public can suggest and draft ordinances for watershed health and development rules.
- CUP 24-03 Valley County Road and Bridge Department Office, Shop, and Storage Yard, well and septic Gold Dust Road plans to move their operations out of the fairground area. They want to build a large and building and landscaping plan without interfering with local wetlands.
- Durena Farr asked about wetlands interference permits. Cynda Herrick confirmed that this guidance comes from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- PUD 23-02 MacGregor Townsite and CUP23-52 Phase 1 Preliminary Plat on the agenda again and the public hearing will continue. No further questions have been received by the P&Z.
- The P&Z is reviewing their comprehensive plan. The VSWCD Board was asked for input on what defines healthy and productive local soils. This questions how we protect agricultural lands and who the responsibility belongs to. State laws do exist, but they may lack the regulatory power to protect agricultural

lands. DEQ has distance regulations for waterways and nutrient runoffs but does not make considerations for impaired/unimpaired waterways, which is a potential area of improvement.

b. ISWCC Megan Brooksher update: FY24 WQPA funding update, other ISWCC news Northwest Passage project draft design by Bill Lillibridge. WQPA Project discussion

-Bills are still moving forward through the House and Senate. One bill does discuss WQPA receiving one million dollars for fiscal year 25. The next commission board meeting is April 4th. Not every district that submits a proposal will receive funding this time around.

-The commission receives recommendations based on soil savings and nutrients levels to determine which applications will be approved. May 1-May 31 will be the application period.

-Northwest Passage Project: Area of concern has significant erosion near the fishing/recreation area. Bill Lillibridge was approached to find a solution, which is a rock bridge proposal. The draft proposal is moving forward, and the funding is available.

-The North end of Heinrich project requires additional drawings and permitting to move forward. The bank design makes it difficult for rock placement. There needs to be an analysis to put in fencing at the site.

-Pam Pace brought up a land sinking concern right across from the River Bend Condos (Lardo Dam) for the District to address.

-Request for stormwater workshop organization. Bill suggested uniformity. Cynda brought up whether additional standards should be discussed. Bill agreed to send his availability to Durena after the meeting.

c. Pam Pace provided updated NFPR Watershed Water Supply outlook with water supply at 82% of average, current snowpack at 90% of average. As of March 7 water supply outlook for NFPR watershed has improved. We are in better shape for water supply for this year but we are still below normal.

d. NFPR Watershed Coalition updates: Steering Committee rescheduled Workshop to April 25. Dani, DBC, M Jayo confirmed, Ken unconfirmed, conflict for Jordan Messner, Maureen Pepper. Ordinance is a potential workshop for the Coalition.

e. Jason Dobis, USBR, State Ag Grant March 15 Hot Springs WMA Riparian Fencing Phase II: Jason was not present to give an update. There are 2-3 projects remaining to fix this site. There is only \$279,000 total funding this year available for the state grant that would fund this project. Megan will be available to help prepare applications for Valley County.

f. Other guest reports and topics: VSWCD has requested to be included for monthly City of McCall Agenda distribution for VSWCD monthly board review and comment as appropriate.

g. Cinnabar status update provided by Judy Anderson. This is an issue for the tribes and there are public testimony records available.

h. The Lake Irrigation Pipeline project has opposition from one property owner. The project planners are attempting to avoid wetland interference.

i. Ron Brooks NRCS update: there have been ranking software issues that have led to a new application deadline. Applications will be received by the end of this week. Valley County had 15 applications. We are out a State Conservationist. A permanent candidate will fill this role by summer. Durena has a new computer in the NRCS office.

j. Jordan Messner IDFG update: IDWR reached out and is interested in exploring potential locations for streamflow monitoring locations. Let Jordan or Chase know about additional site ideas. Pam Pace suggested that additional temperature data would be helpful. Jordan's Coalition presentation would be a good opportunity to address these crucial issues.

2. **Action Item:** Colt Brown moved to approve (sign) FY25 5yr and Annual Plan Certification due to ISWCC March 31, 2024. Judy Anderson seconded, and motion carried with all in favor.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. IASCD Division III Spring Meeting Feb. 27 recap by John and Judy: The biggest discussion topic at the annual conference in Boise was on District 3 responsibilities. It was proposed that admins would not have

to pay for registration every other year. It was also proposed that it be hosted online/hybrid for more participation. IASCD division 3 bylaws need to be reviewed and republished.

2. 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.
3. Source Water Protection S716 Septic Pilot Program final invoice and report submitted. IDEQ State Ag Pivot Conversion Grants S741 and S742 final invoice and reports submitted/received

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

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file treasurers Report for February 28, 2024. General account and 319 account activity balanced to QuickBooks 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) Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** Colt Brown moved to approve Central Mtn CPA \$1040 annual fee (\$260/qtr) for monthly payroll processing and FY24 Budget adjustment. Previously \$800 annually (\$200/qtr) . Email forwarded to board supervisors for review. Judy Anderson seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.
3. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to replenish Petty Cash for \$94.00 (last replenished on 12/10 2019 for \$99.00). Colt Brown seconded and motion passed with all in favor.

#### **P & Z MARCH, 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE**

##### **New Business**

1. CUP 22-16 Camp Modern – Annual Review pushed to April due to high volume P&Z schedule
2. VAC 24-01 Vacation of portions of Bings Road and Brands Lane
3. VAC 24-02 Harris Vacation of Utility Easement
4. **Action Item:** Judy Anderson moved to approve Art Troutner District Natural Resource Letter of Concern for CUP 24-02 River Fork Ranch Subdivision – Preliminary Plat. Colt Brown seconded, motion passed with Art Troutner, Judy Anderson, Colt Brown and Bill Leaf in Favor, with John Lillehaug excused and absent from the discussion and abstained from the vote.
5. CUP 24-03 Valley County Road and Bridge Department Office, Shop, and Storage Yard, well and septic Gold Dust Road

Old Business: Tabled from February 8, 2024

1. PUD 23-02 MacGregor Townsite and CUP23-52 Phase 1 Preliminary Plat

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** John Lillehaug presented the Spring State Forestry Youth Competition Bonner SWCD request for program donations. Judy Anderson moved to contribute \$100 for VSWCD. Colt Brown seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

##### **Date Reminders:**

*March 13 Lake Irrigation District Workshop for Culvert project 4-6 pm Elk Creek Church*

*March 14 Valley County P & Z 6 p.m.*

*March 19 National Ag Day – Valley-Adams Farm Bureau Ridley’s 3-7 p.m. \$500 drawing*

*April 4 VSWCD Board Meeting 9 a.m.*

*April 25<sup>th</sup> NFPR Coalition Workshop, Donnelly Bible Church 4-6 p.m.*

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Minutes prepared by Daina Aguas, NFPRWC Admin**

**Date Approved:** April 4, 2024