

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

Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85344708984?pwd=SdokdGy67PGfcHRnnJ87nPHcObiSGU.1>

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

Members Present: Supervisors Art Troutner, Bill Leaf. Online: John Lillehaug; Colt Brown

Members Absent and Excused: Judy Anderson

Others Present: Durena Farr VSWCD District Manager,

Others Online: Janet Cherry, CAWAG/ERG; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Neil Shippy, IDWR; Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Lenard Long, VSWCD Associate; Kim Thompson, NFPRWC.

Action Item: John Lillehaug moved to approve and sign October 3, 2024, minutes. Bill seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to board.

NEW BUSINESS: Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

1. EPA Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap update November 20th re: SLRWSD Maps and PR release
2. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick November 11th new business review (see below)
3. IDWR Neil Shippey Water supply update: Thinking about natural flows vs. Using groundwater use; for new population and development in the county; Storage Association; Contract for upper basin McCall/ Horseshoe Bend area would impact cities/ranchers/individuals; Need study done first for the contract to move forward (grant opportunity and partnership with the Coalition)
4. Ron Brooks, NRCS EQIP updates, fire mitigation applications: Workgroup meeting for Equip funding cycle met; Decisions made and worksheet will be sent out districts in the next week; Resource concerns and topics are to remain the same; Funding allocations for Team 5 same as previous year; 90 applications thus far this year (20 fire specific); Current funding Equip \$500,000 and IRA Equip \$600,000; Lots of applications and concern around fire impact and recovery; Disaster fund pools available from state funding; Team 5 fund pool can be hopefully used for other EQIP
5. ISWCC Bill Lillibridge provided Heinrich update - Falvey Earth Works Bid, Permission to Access; \$62,000 available; \$30,000 set aside for 319; \$184,000 bid from Falvey. looking for other bids or other options for money; Work window for heavy equipment is done for season; Potential reallocate money to another project? Relief culvert roadside don't need permits. Live creeks need permits.; Need to use money, possibly buy plants for next spring; Communicate with Simplot for new plans; Potentially do upper area where the sand is.
6. Meghan Brooksher updates, ISWCC newsletter (July no-till drill Districts)
7. Art Troutner provided IASCD Div III meeting summary. Fire impact concerns include estimate of 5 years recovery for BLM allotments to have enough feed; Bank stabilization high priority; Noxious weed concerns; Assessing range for cattle use and when; Don't see restriction for 5 years, there was a lot not burnt badly which means cattle could come in sooner; Re-seeding post fire; Emergency non-native seed vs. Native seeds (very expensive); Access to native seeds like bitterbrush is tough; Grass and sage is more available; Areal seeding vs Drilling seeds (due to steep conditions); Use of virtual fencing in post-fire area discussed; Test done in the salmon area and seemed to work well; Watersheds could experience longer term impacts; Erosion is high concern; Pipeline conversation project done by irrigation district; Hoping to have project done this last fall, but still in negotiations due to subdivisions involved with landowners wanting water exposed; Wetland determination completed, though there had been confusion around this.
8. NFPR Coalition Workgroup findings available online. Next Steering committee review Nov. 14th 9 a.m.
9. Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall Agenda review with no topics addressed by VSWCD
10. Sherry Maupin (Cynda Harris gave report)- Formation of Ag Preservation District with VSWCD representation. Adoption of Agricultural Protection Area Commission (mandate from Sate); At request of landowners; incentivize stewardship and legal support; First stage, moving forward there will likely be benefits (tax); Compressive plan for specific recommendations, create an ordinance; Model ordinance exists; Bylaws and application forms will need work; Need three people for commission; Asked for Valley Soil and Water to take this over for Valley County; From ART: VSWCD Would like to be a part of but not be the actual commission; Bill has interest and will meet with Cynda for next steps. Shirley Florence has interest; There needs to be quick movement, required to be adopted by end of year

11. Other guest reports and topics; Pam Pace: Drought monitor, back in drought conditions; La Nina, weak, with potentially more snowfall than average; Current SWE to date, above normal. Lenard Long: Lake Cascade- October report; Local business owner launching from boat ramp. Loss of money during blooms; Tourist fishing during bloom, thought algae was not harmful; Education is paramount; Active erosion; Data about water temperature and bloom intensity, correlation?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Site grading and stormwater calculation work session follow-up – Payette Lake: Follow up with Dan with water retention pond; U of I Erosion Program (contact Mellisa Hamilton for program in the spring to train contractors, building inspection, planning and zoning) SEEP program
2. Noxious Weed Treatment/Enforcement Letter of Support: Judy- has not been mailed, needs to be finished
3. West Mtn and Willow Creek WMA (South end) fencing update BOR contracting with Rod Willet: 2,000 sedge plants, cattle were still in area. Twin Peaks will hold plants until Spring. Possible electric fencing for the cattle?
4. LC Willow Creek WMA Sedge planting Nov 1 canceled due to snow. Cattle on shoreline as of Nov 1

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2024. General account and 319 account activity balanced to QuickBooks, Treasurer reviewed bank statements, ICRMP renewal, approved ACH Payments, Umpqua Card charges, recurring payments including Ziple Fiber, Zoom, NPERS, PERSI and Payroll Processing (includes payroll payment to US Treasury and quarterly payroll payments by Central Mountain CPA) 319 account no-change. Bill Leaf seconded and motion carried with all in favor
2. Zwygart & Assoc have FY24 Financial Audit completed with report to be emailed for chairman signature
3. **Action Item:** Adopt FY25 Budget with ISWCC FY25 Match Allocation: Add \$6,000 for audit; Bids for no-till drill (Colt has information); Outreach for forestry tour; Seedling \$10,000 (cost and personal); 165,085.98 total income; Misc. Project line expenses \$8,550.98; Bill Lillehaug
4. moved to Accept; Bill Leaf seconded; Accepted budget for FY25
5. **Action Item:** Bill Leaf moved to approve Durena's request for 3 8 hr days PTO November 25-29th and 1 8 hr day for Thanksgiving Holiday. Colt Brown Seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

P & Z NOVEMBER 11TH 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE

Review of Old Business: 1. CUP 22-05 Gold Fork Reserve – Final Plat 2. CUP 24-23 Foulk Solar Panels 3. CUP 24-24 Gold Fork River Ranch 69-lot individual septic and wells

New Business: No concerns were submitted by VSWCD

1. V-5-24 Guth Setback Variance, rear setback from 7.5 ft to 0 ft. 12842 Morning Dr.
2. CUP 24-29 Bens Ranch Private Airstrip, 10116 Round Valley Road; Grass airstrip, used for private use; Looking for potential commercial use permit for fire/rainbow bridge use
3. CUP 24-30 Goode Lane Solar Farm, 75 ft frontage on public/private road, 15 acre site, 12600 Goode Lane; Uses easement through private land for access; Edge to edge solar panels; Questions around removing forest; Trees can be removed if land is going to be used from something else productive.

Date Reminders:

November 11 Valley Co P & Z 6 p.m.

November 14 Coalition Steering Committee

November 20 CAWAG meeting

P & Z Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.

December 5 VSWCD Board meeting, Board Approval of Performance report

December 20 VSWCD Performance Report Due Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Chairman: _____ **Date Approved:** _____ *December 5, 2024*
Minutes prepared by Durena Farr, VSWCD; Kim Mapp, NFPWC