

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JANUARY MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE

THURSDAY JANUARY 2ND, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85816991776?pwd=LMJtnLjkIKrhzwRAVM9cWcTbmJlwG1.1>

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Members Present: Supervisors: Colt Brown, Bill Leaf, John Lillehaug, Judy Anderson, Art Troutner Others Present: Durena Farr VSWCD District Manager

Others Online: Brittnay Brand, Zach Provant, Boise State; Chris Bentley, BNF Cascade Ranger District; Jordan Messner, Idaho Fish and Game; Lindsey Harris, WCMEC; Jannet Cherry, EPA; Mara Hlawatschek, Valley County; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Neil Shippy, IDWR; Lenard Long, VSWCD Associate; Pam Pace, VSWCD Associate; Kim Thompson, NFPRWC.

Action Item: Judy Anderson moved to amend December 5. minutes. Bill Leaf seconded and December minutes were amended. John Lillehaug moved to approve and sign December 5, 2024 amended minutes. Bill Leaf seconded and the motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to board.

NEW BUSINESS: Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

1. BNF Cascade Ranger District, Chris Bentley spoke on fire restoration plans for the region. 173,000+ acres burned in area in 2024, major goals for F.S. is to mitigate roadside hazards (Salvage sales), jumpstart restoration (planting and re-seeding) for landslide and erosion control. BAER report was used for funding acquisition and available publicly, including testing and planning for major work to do be done in March 2025.
2. Valley County Regional Resilience Assessment update –Zachary Provant/Brittany Brand, BSU spoke on status of the Resilience Assessment (local focus groups to begin meeting this winter and spring). Provided insight for major grants (Philanthropy Northwest and DOE). Wants to work with Coalition and the District for the Resilience Assessment. Pam Pace raised need for long term modeling and what happens if there are consecutive drought years in the region.
3. EPA Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap update, Cascade City Council meeting, Janet Cherry no major updates since last meeting. Major focus on understanding the current water (and wastewater) demands vs. Projected future demands. Groundwater storage and quantity was brought up multiple times.
4. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick January new business review- Cynda not present- no action items taken on new business. Some questions around VAR 24-006 Webster Setback Variance, Jordan to send photos.
5. IDWR Neil Shippey spoke on how water accounting is changing and expects to see more natural flows identified (diversions considered). The need for Groundwater District creation brought up again.
6. Ron Brooks, NRCS EQIP updates, Monica Gokey requested information on any virtual livestock fencing updates. Ron was not present. Conversation around viability of virtual fencing in region. Joel Yelich’s name brought up for a possible virtual fence presentation to VSWCD from Joel (yelich@uidaho.edu).
7. Pam Pace spoke on the current water supply outlook. Snow Water Equivalent map showed above average snowpack in the Payette. Precipitation Accumulation through NRCS has Payette “medium” trending and similar to 2022. Stacked plots by NRCS showed similar to 2022. Lake Cascade was showing close to normal water supply. Overall, 99% of average water supply locally but Drought Monitor has the County at both Moderate and abnormally dry categories.
8. ISWCC Bill Lillibridge spoke about the upcoming legislative session and the need to encourage WQPA funding by legislature.
9. NFPR Coalition, Kim spoke on group leads identifying key project areas, edits/additions to the valley county comprehensive plan, the beginning stages of the restoration plan and the work group lead desires to begin presenting to local groups (such as commissioners).
10. Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall Agenda review. No updates from Cascade or Donnelly. Conversation was held about the new development in McCall and hooking into the McCall city’s wastewater treatment with leaks in the lining as well as the amount of water needed for the development. No action was taken.
11. Ag Preservation District update, VSWCD Bill Leaf reported next meeting held February 13. Bill added that he is very excited about the potential for the district but wants to see more “incentives” for landowners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Site grading and stormwater calculation work session follow-up – Payette Lake

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** Colt moved to accept and file Treasurer’s Report for December 31, 2024. General account and 319 account activity reconciled to QuickBooks, Treasurer reviewed bank statements, ICRMP renewal, approved ACH Payments, Umpqua Card charges IASCD dues \$1300, 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) Bill Leaf seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

2. **Action Item:** Bill moved to accept \$101 increase in National Dues to upgrade status of the District. Colt Brown seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
3. Other items: Discussion on moving forward with the Philanthropy Northwest grant, concerns around management and what projects would qualify. County Commissioner report (Discussion on current VSWCD house, performance report, legislature day and confirmation on Planning and Zoning comment submissions by the district).

P & Z JANUARY 9TH 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE

Old Business:

1. 1. CUP 24-27 Sal Ranch Subdivision

New Business:

2. 2. CUP 23-54 Lake Port Storage – Two year extension
3. 3. VAR 24-006 Webster Setback Variance
4. **POSTPONED** PUD 24-01 RedRidge Village – DF Development 1,130 residential units

Date Reminders:

January 6 BOCC 10:15 30 min Perf report

January 9 P & Z 6 pm

January 13 Cascade City Council, 6 pm

January TBD NFPRWC Steering Committee

January 15 CAWAG

January 20 IASCD Legislative Display Day 4-6 p.m. Crystal Ballroom

January 27 Cascade City Council, 6 pm

February 6 VSWCD Board meeting 9 am

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date Approved: February 6, 2025 Minutes prepared by
Durena Farr, VSWCD; Kim Thompson, NFPWC