

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FEBRUARY MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2025, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81616107618?pwd=9CqqKS88FcPRanGvgjWBpl6dfzL7Xr.1>

Meeting called to order 9:06 a.m.

Members Present: Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf (joined at 9:20 a.m.), Colt Brown online; Judy Anderson. Online were Lenard Long Associate Supervisor and Pam Pace Associate Supervisor

Others present: Durena Farr, VSWCD District Manager; Mattie Bradford, Admin Applicant

Others online: Zach Provant, Boise State; Bill Lillibridge, ISWCC; Neil Shippy, IDWR; Kim Thompson, NFPRWC.

Action Item: Judy Anderson moved to approve January 2 minutes, John Lillehaug seconded, and motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to Board.

NEW BUSINESS: Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

- Action Item:** Valley County Regional Resilience Assessment update provided Leslie Freeman will be writing grant (free), IWRRI, Kendra helping with the scope of the grant. Basic outline to understand water availability, with help from Bozeman engineering firm (AE2S), water optimization and climate models, Feb. 28 due date. The grant would help secure funding for data modeling. Zach Provant said that funding may become frozen but to still pursue this grant and he will begin researching other funding options. John Lillehaug moved to pursue Philanthropy NW Grant due February 28th, Judy Anderson seconded motion and motion carried with all in favor.
- EPA Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap update-Cascade City Council unanimously approved participation in regional wastewater study. All CAWAG EPA grant activity on 90-day hold, Philanthropy NW grant app can move forward.
- Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick February new business review. Cynda received VSWCD Comprehensive Plan recommendations. The board brought up concerns around VAR 24-2007 Hodge Setback Variance from stream 30-ft to 10-ft and from front 20-ft-15ft, concerned that this could set a precedence about BMP's and setback regulations.
- IDWR Neil Shippy update: reinstating old dams/ reservoirs potentially (Teton, Lost Reservoir) to meet water supply demands. Conversation on Anderson Ranch and how its water may be sold/used. Discussion on Payette River needs likely increasing for development purposes in the future.
- Ron Brooks, NRCS EQIP updates, pause on obligatory funds, early retirement offers are being given.
- Pam Pace Water Supply outlook: 125-150% of normal in the North Fork, East side of county still in drought, west in no drought state. Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council is now a watershed advisory group.
- ISWCC updates from Bill Lillibridge – Delwyn Trefz retiring May 16; ISWCC email newsletter features Virtual Fencing: WQPA starts in legislative session, March 31st. Bill reminded district the 5-year and Annual plan is due to ISWCC March 31, 2025.
- NFPR Coalition Restoration Plan update, purpose and goal, CWMP grant funding not on hold due to funding source of Appropriations. Judy raised concerns around presenting a “polished” or finished document to City's and Commissioners, it to be a suggesting it be a more working/rough document so that it will get more buy in.
- Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall Agenda review Each supervisor would take a city agenda (Lenard: Cascade, Colt: Donnelly, McCall: Judy/John)
- Ag Preservation Area update, VSWCD Bill Leaf reported the next meeting is Feb 10, 2:30 p.m (comprehensive plan review): Bill informed that this is in the early stages of developing application process. Currently no incentives are offered but the committee is looking to develop and fund incentives for future applications.
- Action Item:** VSWCD Admin Resume review, John moved to hire Maddie as a 1099 admin for the Coalition. Judy seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
- Action Item:** Judy continues to research groundwater and wrote letter to Idaho Geologic Study. John Lillehaug moved to approve and send VSWCD letter requesting Valley County be included in their regional Idaho Geological Survey. Bill Leaf seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Site grading and stormwater calculation work session follow-up – Payette Lake. No action taken
2. **Action Item:** Motion to approve December 4th VSWCD letter request to P & Z Commission IDEQ for Nutrient Pathogen Assessment (discussed and verbally approved at December board meeting without a vote). VSWCD letter was submitted December 4, 2025. Discussion around Art's letter and edits. Conversation around rewording the letter. Looking for guidance from Lance Holloway and clarification on what is expected at the state level and how to move forward. Cynda recommends DEQ come and talk to P&Z, BOCC and VSWCD Board about TMDLs. Cynda advised that Nutrient Pathogen studies are no longer required in Valley County (from DEQ and Central Health), This change in policy occurred around the same time of second phase of Horse Thief subdivision. No motion or vote taken.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John Lillehaug moved to accept and file Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2025. General account and 319 account activity reconciled to QuickBooks, Treasurer reviewed bank statements, approved ACH Payments, Umpqua Card charges, recurring payments including Intuit, 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:** John Lillehaug moved for reimbursement of District Employee Health Insurance Premium Reimbursement \$95.54/mo 2024, total \$1,146.48; \$86.73/mo 2025 total \$1,040.76. Bill Leaf seconded and motion carried with all in favor. Durena to be reimbursed for all of 2024 and two months (January and February) of 2025 paid to date. Balance of 2025 reimbursement to be paid in December

P & Z FEBRUARY 13 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE

1. CUP 20-36 Highway 55 Amendment and Extension Request, Storage units and covered Parking
2. VAR24-2007 Hodge Setback Variance from stream 30-ft to 10-ft and from front 20-ft-15ft
3. VAC 24-004 Rowell Vacation of utility Easements
4. CUP 24-34 Wilderness Retreat, 3 cabin rentals, communal kitchen, 30x40 steel-frame resident and 25 ft storage container for hosts 105 Silver Fox Spur
5. SUB25-001 Tamarack Resort PUT Seconded Amended Phase 1, two lot subdivision
6. Appeal of P&Z Commission Approval of CUP24-24 Gold Fork Subdivision Feb 10 3pm

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Supervisor input was requested for the 5yr and Annual Plan due March 31, 2025.

John Lillehaug will be attending Division III IASCD Spring Meeting, Feb. 20 in Bruneau.

Judy committed to attend IASCD January Legislature Day 2026

Colt is to attend IASCD Spring Meeting 2026

Art brought up concerns about Perpetua and impacts on Cascade, SLRWSD and NFPR downstream users.

John Lillehaug discussed 2024 Seedling distribution program. 5,000 seedlings were purchased and distributed; for 2025 Twin Peaks contracted to grow 1400 ponderosa pine and 1,000 larch \$2/each; with potential 1,000 held over for 2026 with potential for additional seedlings as needed. Bill is a part of the National Agricultural Land Network

Date Reminders:

February 10 2:30 p.m. Amendment to Valley Co Comp Plan; 3 p.m. Appeal Approval of CUP 24-24 Gold Fork River Ranch Subdivision

February 13 P & Z public hearing

February 13 Agricultural Protection Area presentation for Commissioners, 1 p.m.

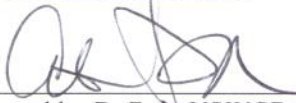
February 20 IASCD Spring Division III meeting Bruneau SCD hosting, John Lillehaug attending for VSWCD

February 28 Philanthropy NW Grant app due; March 6 VSWCD Board Meeting 9 a.m.;

March 31 5-yr/Annual Plan Due to ISWCC

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Chairman:



Date Approved: March 6, 2025

Minutes prepared by D. Farr, VSWCD; Kim Thompson, NFPWC