

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

APRIL MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE

THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2025, 9:00 A.M. IN-PERSON/ZOOM HYBRID MEETING | In person: 209 N Idaho St, Cascade

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88091655753?pwd=XaHxrYwWifdTvnYrk1b2qYIMJjAu4j.1>

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00am

Members Present: Art Troutner, John Lillehaug, Bill Leaf, Colt Brown, Judy Anderson. Online was Lenard Long, Associate Supervisor. Pam Pace, Associate Supervisor absent.

Others Present: Durena Farr, VSWCD District Manager; Mattie Bradford, VSWCD Admin; Steve Anderson; IDEQ, Lance Holloway; IDEQ, Skye Bensel; IDEQ, Vanessa Johnson; Lake Irrigation District, Justin Florence

Others online: Neil Shippy, IDWR; Kim Thompson, NFPRWC; Ron Brooks, NRCS; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. P & Z; IDEQ, Fritz Durham; IDEQ, Amy Woody; IDEQ, Peter Adams; IDEQ, Thea Wickershaw; ISWCC, Bill Lillibridge; ISWCC, Meghan Brooksher; Central District Health, Mike Reno.

Action Item: Bill L. makes a motion to approve and sign March 6, 2025 minutes. Colt B. seconds and the motion carries with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to board.

NEW BUSINESS: Guests and Guest Organization introductions and updates

1. Brittany Brand, Zachary Provant absent for Valley County Regional Resilience Assessment update.
2. Philanthropy Northwest Grant: Kendra Kaiser (absent)/Judy A. No timeline update on PNW grant application outcome. Grant app. submitted 2/26/26
3. Janet Cherry absent for EPA Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) update. District question on how to access Septic Density Assessments. CAWAG meeting 3rd Thursday (April 16th) at 10:30am.
4. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick April 10 New Business review, status update on VSWCD Comprehensive Plan recommendations carried over from March 6 Agenda, District questions regarding Reconsideration Ordinance and new fee structure: **Reconsideration vs. Appeal:** Art T. asks for clarification; Cynda H. explains reconsideration process and board's role in final decisions. New fee schedule raises appeal cost from \$500 to \$2000; reconsideration cost confirmed at \$1,500. Cynda H. cites high legal costs (40–80 hours per case for Supreme Court filings) as the reason for fee increases, not volume of requests. **Comprehensive Plan Recommendations:** Updates still in progress; timeline for further discussion TBD. Judy A. expresses District's interest in land use recommendation workshop to offer support with edits. **Subdivision & Variance Issues:** Cynda H. notes increased setback variance requests in Smiling Julie subdivision and outlines public hearing process and approval conditions, including BMP compliance.
5. IDEQ Lance Holloway, Peter Adams, Wastewater Coordinator; Skye Bensel, Groundwater Coordinator; Vanessa Johnson, Water Quality Analyst; Fritz Durham, Peter Adams, Taya Wickershaw, Amy Woody:
Lance Holloway discusses the need for nutrient pathogen evaluations (NP studies) for subdivisions to protect groundwater and surface water quality. Fritz Durham explains the process and criteria for requiring NP studies, including special conditions and unusual circumstances. Discussion on the challenges of requiring NP studies due to potential legislative backlash and the need for DEQ's involvement. Leonard L. discusses the importance of managing phosphorus and nitrogen to control cyanobacteria growth in Lake Cascade. and provides a graph showing the ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus in Lake Cascade, highlighting the need to manage nitrogen. Discussion on the impact of subdivisions on phosphorus loading and the need for NP studies to reduce lot sizes and protect water quality. Emphasis on the importance of managing nitrogen to limit cyanobacteria growth and improve water quality and request for a refresher on TMDLs from the Board of County Commissioners. Discussion on the role of the Central District Health and DEQ in managing

- TMDLs and the importance of county involvement. IDEQ suggests forming a Watershed Advisory Group to manage TMDLs and other water quality issues. Discussion on the need for consistent and effective communication between VSWCD, the county, health district, and DEQ. Outline of actions for VSWCD include defining special conditions, presenting to the commissioners, and potentially establishing a Watershed Advisory Group. Discussion on the need for ongoing monitoring and data collection to track water quality and nutrient levels. Discussion on the importance of collaboration and consistent efforts to address water quality issues in the watershed.
6. IDWR Neil Shippy Watermaster District 65 update, IWRB meeting review: Bryan Horsburgh (Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager) retiring April 17th. For USBR assistance, contact Ryan Alcorn (ralcorn@usbr.gov). Shane Livingston (canal automation programmer) also retiring. Durena F. to contact Bryan H. to ensure modeling study is completed or transitioned before departure. Travel restrictions may prevent Bryan H. from visiting Cascade before retirement. House Bill 445 includes \$30M for infrastructure upgrades (\$15M each to Northern and Southern Idaho). Emphasis on ditch companies and irrigation districts applying for funds. Megan B. confirms this is a continuation of aging infrastructure grants; Neil S. agrees. Idaho Water Resource Board discussed sending a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding uncontracted space in Cascade Reservoir. Domestic exemption bill reviewed—permits new groundwater wells for domestic use in critical areas; does not affect existing wells. Encouragement to use surface water for irrigation in subdivisions. Discussion on implications for groundwater and surface water usage.
 7. Pam Pace absent for IWRB meeting review, Senate Bill 1083, Water Supply Outlook, BPLWAG update; Nick Miller (absent), IDWR.
 8. Ron Brooks absent for NRCS updates
 9. **Action Item:** John L. makes a motion to sponsor Lake Irrigation District on grant application to secure funding beyond what NCRS is providing. Judy seconded it and the motion carried with all in favor. ISWCC updates Meghan Brooksher, Bill Lillibridge: Meghan B. announced the receipt of \$1 million in funding for WQPA and the application period. Discussion on the potential project components and the potential VSWCD to sponsor LID. Meghan B. highlights the potential for additional funding, as well as the ongoing work on the aging infrastructure application. Meeting scheduled Monday, April 28th between Meghan B., Justin F., and Durena Farr. Colt B. to reach out to Roseberry Irrigation District, Durena F. to contact Charlie Burg for May agenda. Lilly Conrad designated as new DEQ contact. Bill L.: Hiring new administrator for Commission, seeking dist. Employees to aid in hiring process.
 10. NFPR Coalition Update: Kim Thompson provided an update on the Restoration Plan and the need for review and input. Lenard L. has made progress so far. Durena F. emphasizes the importance of submitting projects for the restoration plan.
 11. Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall Agenda review: Judy A. (McCall) mentions the upcoming work session for the impact area and the importance of protections on Payette Lake. Meeting May 8 between district and county. Judy A. highlights the importance of public input for the rule making on lake beds by IDL. She also mentions the upcoming meeting in Boise on April 23 for public input and the April 22nd Earth Day Celebration at McCall Public Library. John L. discusses the co-sponsorship of Arbor Day event at Franz Witte on April 26th from 12-2pm. Judy A. provides details on the Women's Climate Action Big Exhibition and its focus on the watershed.
 12. Bill Leaf had to leave meeting before giving Ag Preservation Area update.
 13. Steve Anderson: discusses the issue of Eurasian water milfoil in Payette Lake and the planned chemical treatment by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the involvement of Jeremy Varley, the treatment engineer, and the need for multiple years of treatment. Steve A. explains the survey and treatment process, including the use of ejection into specific sites. He highlights the challenges of hand pulling and the need for chemical treatment due to the plant's rapid growth, and the chemical treatment plan, emphasizing need for precautions due to the herbicide's nature. Steve A. discusses the potential impact on beaches and the need to shut down areas during treatment, as well as the need for ongoing funding and the challenges of maintaining the lake's condition. Judy A. raises concerns about phosphorus and warmer temperatures contributing to milfoil proliferation. Steve A.

mentions the introduction of milfoil as an aquarium plant and its spread through watercraft and discusses the challenges of eradicating milfoil and the need for a combination of treatments. He highlights the importance of addressing the root causes of milfoil growth, explaining the cost share program for noxious weed control, including free herbicide and weed ID services. Upcoming free recertification training for licensed applicators on May 8th, from 8-4 at American Legion in Cascade. Importance emphasized for ongoing maintenance and the use of bio control methods.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Site grading and stormwater calculation work session follow-up – Payette Lake: Need for a work session on site grading and stormwater calculation. Approval of letter requesting a site grading and stormwater calculation work session in previous meeting, no update.
2. Approve letter requesting status update on VSWCD Comprehensive plan changes and need for review and potential further edits: Board to reach out to Dan Kuntz for further update/questions.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John L. makes the motion to accept and file Treasurer’s Report for March 31, 2025. Colt B. seconded and the motion was carried with all in favor. John L. reviewed the bank statement and confirms the receipt of final deposits for the coalition grant. 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), CWMP final deposit for FY25 \$49,555; CWMP grant final reporting period 3/31/25, LGIP February Statement review, February interest accrued \$26.05 for current balance \$7,579.26
Durena F. mentions receiving final grant money from Coalition, of which reporting is due 4/30. Restoration Plan due in September.

P & Z APRIL 10, 6 P.M. VALLEY CO COURT HOUSE New Business Review

1. VAR 24-006 Webster Setback Variance – 3 in subdivision
2. CUP 23-15 Mullin Multiple Residences – Extension Request (2nd house, previously reviewed)
3. CUP 24-32 Tennyson RV Site
4. CUP 25-002 Cougar Mtn Lodge Event Venue – N. Smith’s Ferry Rd, parking lot South. Weddings, photoshoots, etc.
5. CUP 25-003 Amendment to 20-08RMC Equipment Storage – From one to two units.
6. SUB 25-005 Silver Lake Ranch Estate -Preliminary and Final Plat
7. SUB 25-006 Lake Fork Preserve No. 2 Preliminary and Final Plat

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Date Reminders

April 10 Valley Co P&Z

April 16 CAWAG Monthly meeting with City of Cascade and

SLRWSD April 28 P& Z Impact Area Boundary Adoption Cascade &

Donnelly 1 p.m.

Big Payette Lake Water Advisory Group Monday, 10:30 a.m. McCall Library Hershberger Room

March 31 CWMP End of Financial and Performance reporting period 10/1/24-3/31/25 (report due 4/30/25)

May 1 VSWCD May Board Meeting 9 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45pm: John L. moved to adjourn the board meeting. Colt B. seconded and the motion was carried with all in favor.

Chairman: _____ **Date Approved: May 1, 2025**

Minutes prepared by Mattie Bradford, Durena Farr, VSWCD

