

VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MARCH MINUTES 209 N IDAHO ST, CASCADE

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

To Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86337347478?pwd=2jVOPYqzz5cUiYZEElyCayJgWMGOM.1>

Meeting Called to Order at 9:02am

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

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

Others online: Brittany Brand, Boise State University; Jordan Messner, IDFG; Neil Shippy, IDWR; Kim Thompson, NFPRWC; Ron Brooks, NRCS; Cynda Herrick, Valley Co. P & Z.

Action Item: Judy Anderson moved to approve February 6 minutes, Bill Leaf seconded, and motion carried with all in favor. Draft minutes emailed to Board.

NEW BUSINESS: Guests and Guest Organization introductions and update

1. Kendra Kaiser/Judy A. reported on Feb. 26th application submitted by Leslie Freeman with VSWCD as fiscal agent. Negotiations with Idaho Water Resource Research Institute (Kendra K.) were challenging due to agency communication issues. Work Plan Adjustments: Judy A., Pam Pace, and Art Troutner revised the plan to align with VSWCD goals, removing elements from the sample plan. Once funding is secured, a contractor will be brought on board. Funding & Outcome: \$250,000 grant (pending). Goal: Integrate water quality/quantity measures into land-use planning, create a watershed data repository, and develop a water budget for Donnelly, McCall, and Cascade.

Brittany Brand provided the Resilience Assessment Update: Still in Phase II for the West Central Mountains region. Focus on four areas: sustainable economy, long-term resilience, infrastructure, and disaster management. Developing a landing page for findings and preparing for a survey phase, community forums, and an action-planning workshop with survey results published June–Fall 2025.

2. EPA Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) VSWCD board has questions on source for Septic Density Assessments. Janet Cherry was not present at VSWCD meeting. Durena Farr adds EPA still waiting on permission from City of Cascade to meet with city engineer or other municipal sewer contractor, pending approval. Next CAWAG meeting scheduled for March 19, 1-2 p.m., third Wednesday of the month. Meeting invites from Omid Barr <obarr@michaeldbaker.com>
3. Valley Co. P & Z Cynda Herrick March 13 new business review, status update on VSWCD Comprehensive Plan Recommendations:
 - Coho Storage Units: Continued extension request.
 - Motion for Reconsideration Ordinance: Codifying the reconsideration process post-Board of County Commissioners' decisions and introducing a fee.
 - Short-Term Rental & RV Site: Proposal for a single-family residence with one RV spot to be short-term rented alongside the house.
 - Ponderosa Ridge Subdivision (Tamarack): Office Area Plat: Redevelopment of office, daycare, and employee housing areas. 60-Unit Townhome Plat: Replacing a parking lot in Aspen Townhomes/Trillium area, relocating parking northward. New Parking Lot: Capacity for 864 cars & 14 RVs, located on 5 acres. Includes stormwater management plan. Bill L. asked if parking lot extends north past the creek. Cynda H. confirmed it straddles the area, with new land acquired for relocation. Lenard Long inquired about oil-water separator. Cynda H. confirmed no creek drainage, with infiltration basins planned. Next Steps: Opportunity for comments before the hearing next week.
4. IDWR Neil Shippy Watermaster District 65 update: Assessments: 90 new assessments in Garden Valley, ID, generating local interest. Many water rights (originally 16-20 acres) have been split into 1–5-acre parcels, complicating ownership records. Neil S. is working to clarify ownership. The district hopes to add clerical help to process ~300 more assessments. Next year's expansion includes 130 new water rights from Cascade to Banks, focusing on tributaries and 300 overlooked rights. Landowner Responses: Mixed—some transferring, abandoning, or upset about payments, but most pleased to discover their rights. Water Rights Retention: 75% of

- newly administered rights are on the Middle Fork, with others in Cascade and McCall. McCall Water Rental: City's water right goes out of priority by July 1st, returning late August, requiring rental water during that period. Bill L. to meet with Neil S. to discuss his water rights.
5. Ron Brooks, NRCS: FY25 EQIP Application Update: 24 applications in Valley County evaluated and ready. Funding Pause: ~50% of EQIP funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are on hold pending federal decisions. Pre-approved applications cannot move forward until resolved. Alternative Funding: If IRA funds are unavailable, projects may rely on Farm Bill EQIP funds, which are more limited. Staffing Impact: Idaho NRCS lost ~15 hires, but Ron B.'s team (Team 5) was unaffected. Reduction Plan: All agencies must submit budget reduction plans (staff, programs, or processes) by 03/15/25.
 6. Pam P. presented current drought conditions, with Valley County nearly drought-free; statewide conditions improving due to heavy rain and cold temperatures. February saw 5+ inches of precipitation in McCall (2.7 inches above normal). Cascade inflow forecast at 109% of normal for April–September. Snowpack: Comparable to 2000 and 2008 levels. ENSO Update: La Niña expected to persist through February, then shift to ENSO-Neutral. Pam P. attended IDAWRA Meeting (2/28/25): Christian Petrich's Boise water system evaluation highlighted future shortages due to growth. Boise lacks water bank/rental pool, requiring creative solutions if runoff occurs, though they have the Snake River and a significant aquifer if needed, unlike Valley County. Takeaway: Northwest Philanthropy grant could highlight these issues. Public education on water conservation is crucial for sustainable growth. Valley County Recreation Strategic Plan: Meeting 3/6 in McCall and 3/11 in Cascade. Pam P. advocates for VSWCD to become a recreation partner in Valley County. Payette Lake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG): First meeting on 3/24 at 10:30 AM (McCall Public Library). McCall Area of Impact Meeting: Scheduled for 3/10 from 3-5 PM (McCall Public Library & YouTube stream). No in-person remarks allowed; written comments due 3/9. Pam P. & Judy A. express concerns; Judy A. drafted a letter for board review/approval.
 7. ISWCC updates - Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC Newsletter Features Virtual Fencing. WQPA Project submission, IDEQ State Ag Water Quality Grant final invoice, final report Hot Springs WMA submitted and approved. New hire Dani Roseman (Jerome office); another employee expected in Soda Springs. WQPA Funding recommended for \$1 million by JFAC, expected to pass House and Senate. Upcoming Grant Opportunities: State Ag BMP, Federal 319, Source Water Protection (possible), WQPA, Flood Management, Aging Infrastructure. Deadlines: Five-year and annual plans due 3/31/25. Process Change: Requests for Assistance no longer needed—contact Meghan B. directly. Durena F. presents to board thank-you letter to be sent out (3/6) to JFAC and District 8 representatives for WQPA and State Ag Program Funding.
 8. NFPR Coalition Status Update - Restoration Plan progress, purpose, goal, draft review: Durena F. and Kim Thompson: Restoration Plan started, with primary goal to help secure future funding by having watershed plan – draft table of contents shared with board.
 9. Cities of Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall Agenda review: Donnelly (Colt Brown): City adopted Fair Housing and approved a letter review. McCall (Judy A.): Ramp Fees on Payette Lake increased to \$15 (day pass), \$100 (annual), and \$1000 (commercial), generating \$16,000 in revenue for ramp maintenance, voter education, and water quality monitoring. Red Ridge Development Proposal plans for 490 short-term rental apartments, considering Payette Lake an amenity. McCall Sewer Capacity Concern: Red Ridge acknowledges NF Payette River discharge restriction and intends to use McCall's sewer system. Water Quality Support: City of McCall interested in assisting water quality monitoring per Kurt Wolf at Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council Meeting. Cascade (Lenard L.): Discussions on sidewalks and stormwater improvements near Subway.
 10. Bill Leaf provided Ag Preservation Area update and distributed APA application for review; includes forest land eligibility. Approved by APA members; final approval pending from Kaylee Tuning and Will Maki. John L. attended the DIII Spring Meeting in Bruneau. Bruneau Soil District working to prevent Quagga Mussel spread, using cellululated copper and planning pot ash treatment in spring. 1,200+ boat inspections in Bruneau, 3,500+ in Marsing; sites chosen based on calcium levels. Virtual Fencing: Useful in post-fire areas but expensive (\$4,500–\$12,000 per base station, \$40/year per animal). University of Idaho researching cost reduction using ear tags instead of collars. WQPA Funding: Covers virtual fencing only for waterway protection. Next DIII Meeting: October 14, 2025, hosted by Weiser River Soil District.
 11. Other guest reports and topics: Jordan Messner: Participated in stream condition work group, generating ideas on how to improve stream flow/conditions, improve irrigator efficiency in the basin. Jordan M. reached out to Carter Borden, owner of Centered Consulting Int. Carter B. specializes in developing surface water basin models. The models can be used to test various water management alternatives. He is interested in working with IDFG, water districts, VSWCD, and agencies to develop surface water accounting model for the NFPR. Carter B. is currently

developing a proposal for them and would like to come meet everyone/give a presentation on the model. Judy A., Art T., Neil S., and Lenard L. agree they support idea, would like to meet. Durena F. requests Jordan M.'s raw list of projects from Lenard Long for coalition restoration plan. Judy A. contacted engineering firm E2S about conservation plans, and they sent an estimate of \$80,000 for upper Payette Basin (McCall Area).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Action Item:** John L. makes a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification Page for the 5-Year and Annual Plan due March 31, 2025. Colt B. seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
2. Site grading and stormwater calculation work session follow-up – Payette Lake. Lenard L: The VSWCD board submitted to the county some criteria for water quality volume in pond design (submitted in August) to Cynda H. who forwarded it to the county engineer, who was new to the role. Lenard L. drafted a follow-up requesting an update from Cynda and Dan.

FINANCIAL ACTION ITEMS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:

1. **Action Item:** John L. moved to accept and file Treasurer's Report for February 28, 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) CWMP deposit for FY25 \$49,555; CWMP grant final reporting period 3/31/25; funds remaining FY26 \$49,555. Judy A. seconded, and motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** Website updates proposal from Mapp Web design, currently with Micael McKenzie Inc. Creative. Judy A. makes the motion to accept the proposal to update the website, using Kim T. with Mapp Web Designs as designer. Colt B. seconded and motion carried with all in favor. Kim T. agrees to give the board the outline of the website wireframe for feedback during the design process
3. **Action Item:** John L. makes a motion to approve an Envirothon donation of \$100. Judy A. seconded, and motion carried with all in favor.

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

New Business:

1. Motion for Reconsideration-An amendment to Valley Co. Code Title 9 Land Use & Devel. Chapter 5
2. CUP 25-001 Chadd Short Term Rental and RV Site Rental Plat
4. Tam Resort PUD 98-1 Amdmnt, SUB 25-004 Phase 3.6 Aspen Townhomes & Parking relocation

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. **Action Item:** Judy A. makes the motion to send Lenard L.'s follow-up letter on Board water quality volume criteria submissions to Cynda H. and Dan. John L. seconded and motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Action Item:** Colt B. makes the motion to accept the letter to Lance Holloway, with revisions made by the Board and Durena F. Judy A. seconded the motion and motion carried with all in favor.
3. **Action Item:** John L. makes the motion to approve Judy's IDEQ Lance Holloway letter, final draft. Colt B. seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Date Reminders:

February 28 Philanthropy NW Grant app submitted;

IDEQ State Ag Grant 3178 Hot Springs Fence Amplifund Invoice/Report filed by Meghan Brooksher

March 10 2:30 p.m.

March 13 Valley Co P&Z

March 31 5-yr/Annual Plan Due to ISWCC with Certification Page

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

April 3 9 a.m. VSWCD April Board Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 11:54pm

Chairman: _____ Date Approved: April 3, 2025
Minutes prepared by Mattie Bradford, Durena Farr, VSWCD