

## Virtual Combined District Board Meeting Draft Minutes

Minidoka, East Cassia, & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 11:00 am

### Attending the meeting were:

**Minidoka Board:** Brian Kossman, Aaron Firth, Dusty Wilkins

**West Cassia Board:** Richard Kunau, Jordan Searle, Kathy Poulton, Brent Stoker

**East Cassia Board:** Steve Ward, Ken Woodworth, Hannah Sanders, Rob Cottle

**Admin:** Sharon Hardy-Minidoka SWCD, LaRae Warren-Cassia SWCD, Doreen McMurray-Cassia SWCD

**Other Guests:** Melanie Nebeker-TA Grant, Betty Carlson-Cotterel boat station, Reid Bowen-Minidoka SWCD Guest, Carolyn Firth-ISWCC, Cathy Roemer-ISWCC, David Mabey-NRCS, and Samantha Lange-Pheasants Forever

### 1. Call to Order - Brian Kossman (Minidoka Chairman) at 11:07 am

### 2. Review of IASCD Virtual Business Meeting in Boise - Brian Kossman

Reported on the in person and also available virtual IASCD business meeting held in Boise in November of 2020, he stated that the Districts have decided to wait and work through issues with the commission and they are not in favor of disbanding the Commission. All Districts are concerned and disturbed about lack of access to their offices during the pandemic mandates. And there was discussion about the conditions of the MOA with NRCS.

### 3. Resolution Proposal - Virtual District Meetings

A Resolution regarding virtual meetings is being presented by Minidoka SWCD, it has been sent to Benjamin of the IASCD for review to help with some of the verbiage. After discussion the supervisors asked Sharon Hardy to follow up with Benjamin about the need to have a supervisor present at the place of origination of the virtual meeting. The resolution will be revised and presented to the three boards at their January Meetings.

4. **Tree Sale Update** – Ken Woodworth made a motion that all seedling special orders received by February 15 will only be charged a 5% special order fee. Orders received after February 15 will be charged a 10% special order fee. Ron Cottle seconded the motion. Motion passed. Megan Heward and Doreen McMurray will oversee the Tree Sales with a spreadsheet that can be updated and available to the two field offices. Sharon Hardy and LaRae Warren will continue to provide order forms and collect forms and moneys for the project. The tree distribution will be at Megan's home in 2021. All expenses will be taken from the total sales before the net is divided between the Districts.

5. **David Introduced New** Pheasants Forever/Sage Grouse employee who took over the position that Connor White had previously held. Samantha Lange is on board for that job and helping with conservation out of the Burley NRCS office.

### 6. Reports:

**NRCS** – David Mabey reported that CRP had 40 contracts and the EQIP deadline was December 4<sup>th</sup>, but not sure how many contracts will come from that. Due to the various closures which caused setbacks, he has Melanie Nebeker and Samantha Lange working on a number of applications, to provide documentation that is needed. District employees are #3 on the totem pole of necessary employees in a building when there is a lockdown/closure and so would be the first to be sent home. Nathan Huber has taken a job in Utah, and a replacement has not been found. The Local Work Group (LWG) report has been submitted, questions will be sent out in January for review. David Mabey asked to meet with the Three Chairman later to go over issues and projects.

**TA (Technical Assistance)** – Melanie Nebeker reported that she is finishing up on some contracts by doing pictures, and gathering necessary signatures. And working on some High Tunnel Projects. The TA2020 Grant for Melanie's position has been signed and is ready to start December 29, 2020.

**ISWCC** – Carolyn Firth stated potential changes and that working on improving relations with Districts will be the goal for the commission. She presented a chart outlining items that the Commission will address in the coming year. The chart outlined the combined desires from all the Districts for potential changes and actions, responsibilities and comments. This information was developed from the survey the Districts completed.

7. **ISWCC** – Cathy Roemer was asked by Kathy Poulton if the Commission had a priority list as the chart was nice and did outline many of the concerns and issues. Cathy Roemer stated that the Commission board will be having a meeting Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> and will review the chart information and post it on their website. The Commission agrees that status quo in regards to relations with the Districts needs to change and be updated. One of the goals is that a member of the Commission will attend the District's meetings. Cathy Roemer stated that they need a better updated streamlined process for funding, and to look for increases in state funding for conservation.

8. **Ideas to Improve Working Relationship with Commission and IASCD** – Doreen McMurray – Simplify requested paper work. Kathy Poulton – What is purposed for the paper work and reports? How do they use the information? Brian Kossman – Some is required by state law – but are they really necessary? Kathy Poulton – How long have some of the requirements been in place and are they really still needed?

**Continue with individual Agendas.**

### **BREAK OUT OF TRI-DISTRICT MEETING FOR INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEETINGS**

Minidoka SWCD – Brian Kossman, Dusty Wilkins, Reed Bowen, Carolyn Firth, and Sharon Hardy (Aaron Flrth had to leave)

Due to no quorum the bills, minutes of this meeting will be added to the January meeting.

Brian introduced Reed and a replacement for supervisor – decision will be made in January meeting

Sharon asked if it would be alright to approach the Mid Snake RC&D about putting our commercial on their website. It was also discussed that we should plan to put the commercial up on Facebook in March.

It is time to be thinking about who we would like to recognize for Co-operator of the year, we do not know if we will be able to hold a banquet in 2021, but having a plan B and presenting the award at the County Fair worked well – one of our County Commissioners was in the building at the time and was able to observe the presentation in 2020. Supervisors were asked to think of possible people and bring names to the January meeting, Sharon will email board and ask Dinah of NRCS Rupert field office for suggestions.

Sharon presented the Christmas card that will go out to all who have rented the Minidoka Drill.

There are adjustments that need to be made to the budget to compensate for the TA contract, Sharon will make those and present to board in January the current budget and suggested revised budget.

There were no Supervisor reports

Carolyn of ISWCC reported that we really need to pursue the abandoned well project, that she went to a meeting with DEQ, IDWR, Maureen Pepper (a water quality specialist) and others where there. There was discussion and concern about water quality due to abandoned wells. Maybe when we apply for her TA assistance we need to look into more hours directed at this project, and get the ball rolling on it.

Sharon was asked to let Brian know when or if the legislative social in Boise planned, normally held the second week of January in Boise.

Board meeting for January is planned for January 14<sup>th</sup> and for Sharon to look into possibly the back room at Doc's Pizza.

Meeting adjourned 1:16 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Sharon Hardy - Minidoka SWCD Admin.