

IDAHO SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

General Meeting

USDA Service Center, Grangeville

October 4, 2006 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

6:25

Scott Wasem

Chairman, Scott Wasem called the meeting to order at 6:25. Supervisors present: Pete Lane, Leon Slichter (6:25), Ed Stuvenga (6:35). Also in attendance was Janet Hohle (SCC), Richard Spencer (NRCS), Jessica Wells, Joanne McHugh (landowner) and Eileen Rowan (SCC) (7:25).

NRCS

6:25

Richard Spencer

1. District Staff Reports-EQIP-not many people have signed up for the money available for burnt lands. One application has been received. The Board reviewed staff reports for Richard Spencer, Rich Gribble and Sydney Yuncevich; Bob Sandlund is on vacation this week and did not turn in a report.
2. Farm Bill Program updates-CSP is overriding the workload. The recent modification period had 99 modifications to 2005 contracts. Currently there are 180 CSP contracts in Idaho County. There is a lot of discontent in Lewis County about the 2006 sign up period. There was a discussion about burning; According to the RUSLE program, burning on flat land in the fall does not typically show erosion.
3. Update publications-Richard passed around two new publications, "Living on a few acres" and "wildfire recovery tips" More need to be ordered. It is available online on the NRCS website.

6:40 Joanne McHugh-Applied for a contract for a septic, she signed her contract on September 25, the Board has still not seen the contract. She contacted Don Seloske about a failed septic system at her home. He gave her a septic plan; she contacted Ed Poxlietner to give her a bid on the septic replacement. Joanne did not think Ed Poxlietner's response would be as quick as it was. He came to look at it for a bid, and brought his equipment the next day to begin working. Joanne said Ed told her that if he didn't do the work now he may not be able to do it for at least two more months. The contract was signed on 9/25/06 by the participant but was not presented to the board before work was done. Joanne has come to the meeting to ask the board to listen to what happened and possibly make a payment.

Leon suggested that this topic be tabled until Eileen comes to the meeting. The board reminded Joanne that all contracts need to be signed dated and sealed before any works starts. Joanne stated that she did not realize that she couldn't start right away. Their house is close to the creek and the septic had failed so she called Don Seloske; He told her about the program and told her to contact Eileen Rowan. The board will discuss this further when Eileen arrives at the meeting. **Joanne left the meeting at 6:51**

PROJECT PROPOSALS

6:52

Janet Hohle

Bonneville Proposal-Janet informed the board that the project proposal that was submitted to Bonneville will not be funded, allocation was cut for Clearwater and Salmon, several projects did not receive full funding and several others were not extended. The Board asked Janet why the budget was cut. Janet stated it was because Bonneville had to increase the budget in other areas. Fish and Game was not keen on funding projects in the Little Salmon as it is not a priority area for them due to hatchery production.

Restore Anadromous Waters of Idaho-The District sent a letter of support for this project. In writing the proposal Janet used Bonneville funding as a match for NOAA. The Commission was also asked to give funding of about \$200,000 each year. The project would cost approximately 2.2 million over 3 years time. A regional panel (5 sitting members to represent entity's funding projects) will be created. The project would cover a large area, about 1/3 size of Idaho; Janet still worries is it is not big enough. We should know in the spring about projects that are selected for funding. If the project is funded Janet will be managing it.

Project Information Sheet-Race Creek -This is a United States Fish and Wildlife program that addresses fish screening projects. Janet is here to ask the board to support the project. She spoke to Scott last week to get the ok to submit the proposal as it was due last Sunday. Leon visited with Dana Weigel (Bureau of Reclamation) about this project in August.

The project would pipe water from Race Creek, screen it and set up a sprinkler system for irrigation. Janet asked Bill Lillibridge and Trish Heekin to assist her in determining project costs. One of the landowners involved will do tractor work in order to meet the match that will be needed. The Commission will be requested to allocate dollars to the project. District will have money for staff time, mileage and will get 10% of Commission money spent. A 65% cost share is required.

The Board questioned if the fish screen installation would be done to Bureau of Reclamation standards. Janet said yes, but that as of now the screen type that will be used has not been decided. If funding gets lined out it will be done next summer. Janet is expecting the project to get funded. After including Lillibridge's and Heekins cost recommendations for engineering and reseeding; the project is a little more expensive then when she presented it to Scott.

Fish and Game manages this project, they make each project pay an administrative cost out of the non federal cost share. Janet expects that the Commission would pay these costs. The Board questioned why Fish and Game required this additional cost be paid to them. Janet explained it is for the administration of the program. Fish and Game has waived similar fees in the past when working with the Commission. Fish and Game would receive approximately \$9,000; the District would receive about \$6,000. The District expressed to Janet that the budget form is very confusing (It is a State sheet). **Leon moves to support the project. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

Statement of Work—the Bureau of Reclamation will fund local assistance to conservation districts; will fund a half time position that will help with project coordination. Janet has reviewed the proposal that Dana wrote and reworded what a District is. Dana believed that if needed, her vehicle could be made available to the position. Board suggested that the salary figure be more than \$15/hour. With benefits and such it would be around \$20-22/hr. It would be a year to year request. There was money in the last fiscal year budget but we are getting to this too late. Dana believes that this would be a very good possibility to get funding. **Leon moves to pursue Dana's proposal. Pete seconds the motion. Discussion:** District asked Janet to contact Dana about, what accounting system is used, write in an increased salary and benefits, confirm vehicle use; they would like a good MOU. **Vote passes unanimously. Janet left at 7:30.**

SCC

7:30

Eileen Rowan

Staff Reports- Board reviewed staff reports for Eileen Rowan and Bill Lillibridge.

Project Updates-

Daryl Newman-Biff Burleigh visited with Richard and Eileen about the project. Leon and Scott visited the site with Bill Lillibridge and the project was approved outside of the meeting with previous board approval. The board suggested that in the future Daryl build terraces for cows to have access. Biff asked Leon to relay that he was calling because of the dollar amount of the contract. He wanted to see what the board thought, Leon explained that prior to seeing the site they would not have agreed to it. This project will be the second largest contract SCC has funded.

Joanne McHugh-Hoping for leniency because she had talked to Eileen before work was done. Eileen said she told Joanne the same thing she tells all potential applicants get bids from the contractors and get back to me then I'll do the paperwork. She asked for a bid and the contractor did work the next day. Contract was signed on the 25th, the bid was sent on the 15th.

Joanne claimed ignorance; Eileen told her she needed a contract. Eileen told the board there is no money left in the Phase I budget for septic systems. The board discussed that this project would have been a prime candidate for assistance if there had been more money in the budget AND if they had waited to have a signed contract prior to having the contractor do any work.

The board is worried that as much as they want to help, they fear it will allow for other problems in the future. Board had varying views about supporting or not supporting the situation and signing the contract. The McHugh project was denied for lack of a motion to proceed and no available funding.

Board would like a postcard sent to individuals who have had a meeting with Bill or Eileen for projects. **Pete moves to have a postcard sent stating “do not proceed under chance that you will not get paid unless all contracts have been signed by all relative parties BEFORE any work begins”. Add-“when the contract is signed, another post card” do not deviate from contract without contacting the technical person and receiving modification documentation first”. Ed seconds the motion.** Discussion-Eileen suggested that participants fill out an application for cost share assistance. **Vote passes unanimously.**

Lawyers Creek-

Board reviewed the project proposal for Lawyers Creek written by Eileen. Lewis County will do a similar project for their side of the Lawyers drainage. **Leon moves to accept the Lawyers Creek proposal. Ed seconds the discussion, no further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

Allen Frei called Scott last week and said he was direct seeding and the drill was getting clogged and wanted to know if he could heavy harrow. Scott said yes.

The following status reviews and project proposals were reviewed and discussed at the meeting:

Status reviews: Curt Terhaar-STOC-11, Roger Wemhoff-STOC-12, Tim Seubert-SFC-33, Doug Lustig STOC-15, SFC-14

Division II AFO-

Andy Kaschmitter-\$218.25/head; 5500 ft. fence, 3 troughs, 3000 ft pipeline, 2 spring developments. Andy spoke to Eileen at the end of June; money was thought to be in the Cottonwood pot which was later determined to be incorrect information. This contract will be included in Phase I funding proposals.

The following contracts were submitted after the June 30th deadline. They will be sent to Division II AFO Administration Committee for consideration in Round 2, if there is one.

Brian Gehring-\$135.87/head; well, pump, 2500 ft. pipeline, cistern and two troughs

Tim Gehring-\$121.13/head; 4000 ft. fence, 1 well, 1 pump, 1 cistern, 1500 ft. pipeline, 2 troughs.

Tom Gehring-\$285.00/head; 2500 ft. fence, 1 French drain

3Mile Butcher Creek: Andy Kaschmitter-Fence, well, trough, pipeline, watering facilities, access road (\$80161.00)

Leon moves to approve and sign all status reviews and project proposals. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

The following projects were approved and signed outside of a board meeting: Kent Rad-STOC 24 (9/6/06) and Darrel Newman-STOC 22 (9/18/06)

MINUTES

8:35

Scott Wasem

September 5, 2006-**Leon moves to accept the minutes after corrections are made. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

BILLS REPORT

8:40

Pete Lane

Leon moves to accept the Bills Report for October. Pete seconds the motion. Discussion: Scott wanted to make sure that liabilities were taken out of Debbie’s vacation check. **No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

TREASURER’S REPORT

8:50

Pete Lane

Jessica explained the interest earned on the money market accounts. **Leon moves to accept the Treasurer’s Report for October. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:55

Scott Wasem

Yearly Employee Review

Leon moves to go into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-235 to discuss the yearly employee evaluation for Jessica Wells. Pete seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Scott (yes), Leon (yes), Pete (yes), Ed (yes), Mike (absent). Executive Session begins at 8:55. The board dismissed Jessica from the meeting.

Leon moves to come out of Executive Session at 9:15pm. Pete seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Scott (yes), Leon (yes), Pete (yes), Ed (yes), Mike (absent).

Leon motions to increase Jessica’s hourly wage from \$10.50/hr to \$11.00/hr. Ed seconds the motion.

Discussion: The board thanked Jessica for her extra effort the last 6 weeks. They would like her to determine if interest from the money market accounts is available for District use, they will entertain the idea of a performance award if it is. **Vote passes unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

9:15

Scott Wasem

1. 6th Grade Campout-was very successful-all went well, the campers heard an elk bugle and some coyotes. Principal of Clearwater Valley would like to reciprocate the program at their school.
2. Division II Meeting-Agenda-Leon and Scott will be attending.
3. Elections-Appoint Election Official-**Leon moves to nominate Jessica as the Election Official. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously**
4. Annual Audit-approve/payment of bill (\$3150.00). **Leon moves to accept and pay the annual audit. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.** Board feels that because the state demands that an audit be done they should assist in payment. Is there any way to get assistance to pay the accounting bill? Board would like Jessica to ask Kathie Shea about this.
5. Tree Program-price limits-Board says to go ahead with the prices as they are and see if people order them. They suggest putting an ad in the newspaper saying the catalog is available online, if a hard copy is needed stop in the office.

NEW BUSINESS

9:35

Scott Wasem

1. 07 Grazing Conference-Short meeting at 8:00 am if possible. The committee has been in limbo all summer. Board members are welcome to car pool with Leon; he will be there approximately 2-3 hours after the meeting.
2. Jessica/back on staff-vacation -Jessica has come back on staff as of October 2; she will be on vacation from October 10-19th. When she returns she will be meeting with Kathie Shea on the 20th for training.
3. FFA-4H-requesting \$35 donation-**Leon moves to pay the money if it can be taken out of soft money. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**
4. IASCD-find sponsors for fall conference breaks-Board will not be attending or sponsoring a door prize
5. Red River Equipment-Jessica will contact the schools to see if they would be interested in the fax machines that are no longer being used.

ADJOURN

Pete moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

NOV 8TH

6:00 P.M.