

IDAHO SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
General Meeting

USDA Service Center, Grangeville

May 10, 2006 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

6:12

Leon Slichter

Vice Chairman, Leon Slichter called the meeting to order at 6:12p.m. Supervisor's Present: Leon Slichter, Pete Lane and Mike Duclos. Supervisor's absent: Scott Wasem and Ed Stuiivenga. Also present were Jessica Wells, Debbie Key and Richard Spencer.

MINUTES

6:12

Leon Slichter

April 4, 2006

The board would like the burning exceptions statement for contracts changed (pg. 3). Mike is concerned about having exceptions because of possible loop holes.

The board would like Jessica to work with Richard in order to formulate a statement for future contracts that refers to NRCS no-till standards.

Pete moves to table the minutes to the next meeting to make adjustments to the contract wording. Mike seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

The board would like new contracts to say: **“Residue shall not be burned. If a producer chooses to burn, their contract will be terminated.”**

TREASURER’S REPORT

6:25

Leon Slichter

Due to budget concerns and the office being quiet Debbie is going to work fewer hours when she can if the Board agrees. The Board does not have a problem with that as long as Debbie is comfortable with the situation and as long as Jessica is here to answer phones and questions.

Board suggests that at the beginning of the fiscal year they sit down and figure out the new budget. They would like reports to show where the budget is.

Pete moves to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Mike seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

BILLS REPORT

6:35

Pete Lane

Mike moves to approve the Bills Report as presented. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

NRCS

6:45

Richard Spencer

1. District Staff Reports-Board reviewed staff reports for Richard Spencer, Bob Sandlund, and Rich Gribble. Sydney is at training in Boise and did not submit a report.
2. Richard informed the board that he has been involved in meetings about the upcoming lease renewal. The State Administrative Agency met today to approve or disapprove recommendations. Richard explained the proposed changes.
3. Farm Bill Program updates-EQIP-NRCS field offices have until June 1st to wrap up applications. IDL has been assisting with timber related contracts.

4. CSP-Funding categories are being decided. Once contracts are announced payments will need to be made. This fall there are potentially 180 contracts to be modified.
5. Dan Ogle went out with the office staff looking at plant materials seedings and setting up ventenata study areas.
6. Darrell Newman was inspected. He received two letters from the Dept of Ag. They will be meeting with him at 2:30pm Monday May 15. The Board discussed other cases where the EPA has been involved.

SCC

7:08

Eileen Rowan

1. Staff Reports

The board reviewed staff reports for Eileen Rowan and Bill Lillibridge.

OSC Projects

7:10

Jessica Wells

1. Project Update

Jessica gave an update on the projects. Shingle Creek has been reviewed by Fish and Game any problems with the project were fixed. She is working on informational brochures and a web page as well as setting up a tour of the projects. Janet suggested that the board also invite the City of Riggins to join the tour and showcase their Squaw Creek project. The Board suggested setting up the tour for the 23 or 30th of June. Jessica will contact Aaron Wilson and Cook and Son's Construction to find out which of those dates will work best for them.

OLD BUSINESS

7:20

Leon Slichter

1. Arbor Day/trees-The Board reviewed the Arbor Day printout to see how the IDL grant was spent. The Board discussed having a 100% markup for next years tree program. They would like to revisit this topic again in September.
2. Health Benefits-Jessica changed her policy to Regence Now Select. Debbie's insurance is \$139.68, she will pay the costs on her own if the Board won't or can't cover the costs. She would also be okay with them only paying a percentage of the total costs if needed. The Board would like to pick up the whole bill if it can be done financially. The Board asked Debbie whether PERSI or Health Insurance is more important to her if they could only afford one. Debbie replied PERSI is more important.

Mike moves to pay Debbie's health benefits. Pete seconds the motion as long as it can be afforded.

Discussion about what would happen if the grant proposals we submitted are declined and they have to pay these costs out of the District budget. The board would like a definitive budget on how many hours Holly, Jessica, Leslie and Debbie have worked. **Motion is tabled to the June meeting.**

3. PERSI-Costs for Jessica would be \$1.09/hr and \$1.14/hr for Debbie. The Board members that are present would be willing to return any accrued time and donate it to the District to cover PERSI costs. Mileage reimbursements would be an exception because it is an out of pocket expense that the board members must pay. Leon will contact Scott and Ed about this discussion.

TABLED TO NEXT MEETING-even if by telephone

(so the full board is present)

NEW BUSINESS

8:00

Leon Slichter

1. EPA Grant/Novotny-The board would like to find out if the owner is truly interested in the project. Board is worried that it will be a lot of money spent with very little interest from the landowner. He could take \$25,000 and build permanent fencing and water developments himself. Board feels that it is important to do permanent fencing on both sides of the stream and off site water developments.

Mike moves to cease on this request as presented but to notify Novotny that there is cost share money available for permanent fencing and off site watering. Pete seconds the motion.

2. Printing Newsletter-The board would like the current newsletter mailing list be printed and sent to each of them and NRCS for deletions.

Mike moves to change to a biannual newsletter and to have the Board review the mailing list for changes. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

3. QuickBooks Online-It's coming. It will offer: better security, automatic backup, and individual user setup. It will be up to individual board's to determine if they want to go to that format. The Board wants to make sure that no persons other than our office staff can make changes to the files.
4. Staff Changes-Leslie will be leaving as of May 26, 2006. Debbie asked the Board if they would be interested in contributing to a gift for Leslie. The District is not looking to replace Leslie as of right now. The Board would like to have a thank you letter and a framed certificate of appreciation given to Leslie. Also they would like Leslie to know that if she ever needs a letter of recommendation they would be more than happy to write one.
5. Conservation Innovation Grant- This grant was announced at the Division II meeting in March. Leon and Lynn Danly (BLM) have worked up a proposal to use multiple species grazing in order to reseed the preferred species of grasses that would be competitive with Yellow Star and other weeds. It would create more work for our District. The landowner, producers, and Leon's time in kind would be a match. Acceptance letters will be sent out this summer. The Deadline for proposals to be turned in is May 15, 2006.

Mike moves to support the proposal and apply for 15% administration. Pete seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.

6. Phase III Division II AFO-Jessica is in the process of getting notice of Phase III grant applications being accepted until June 30, 2006 into local newspapers. The Board would like to have the people who were turned down, because of not being on 303d listed streams, contacted.
7. Idaho County SWCD received a plaque for being members of ICA.

ADJOURN

Pete moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Mike seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.