

**IDAHO SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**General Meeting**

USDA Service Center, Grangeville

February 6, 2007 6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**6:02**

**Scott Wasem**

Scott Wasem called the meeting to order at 6:02. Supervisors present: Scott Wasem, Leon Slichter, Ed Stuiivenga and Tom Gehring. Supervisor absent: Pete Lane. Also present were Bob Tribelhorn, NRCS (left meeting at 7:55), Richard Spencer, NRCS (left meeting at 8:00) and Jessica Wells.

**MINUTES**

**6:00**

**Scott Wasem**

January 3, 2007-**Tom moves to approve and sign the minutes for January 3. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

January 17, 2007-. **Ed moves to accept the minutes for January 17<sup>th</sup> with changes. Leon seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

**BILLS REPORT**

**6:10**

**Scott Wasem**

**Leon moves to accept the Bills Report as presented. Tom seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**6:15**

**Scott Wasem**

In the future when requesting Office of Species Conservation funds the board would like to estimate costs closer to actual costs. Leon explained the Rapid River and Shingle Creek projects to Tom and Bob.

The board asked about the WQPA budget. Jessica explained that there are actually 4 WQPA budgets. Jessica is working with Kathie to determine what funds are in each of these projects.

**Leon moves to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and with comments about Jessica and Kathie trying to shake out the WQPA projects. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

**NRCS**

**6:25**

**Bob Tribelhorn  
Richard Spencer**

1. Farm Bill Program Updates-Richard passed out talking points for Farm Bill programs. Kelly reviewed CSP folders for content and organization because of a field office appraisal in July. 2007 payments have been finished. NRCS staff will start field reviews and updating EQIP contracts. A lengthy discussion ensued about the continuing resolution and the effect it is having on programs and budgets.

A big question is what happens if CSP is not funded. Many program participants have pointed out to Tom that there is potential for funding to be cut almost completely but for them to have to continue doing all aspects of their end. This program has been a learning curve for all people involved.

Richard informed the board that he had received a OnePlan application for pre-commercial thinning. Richard explained OnePlan to the board.

2. Staff Reports-Board reviewed staff reports for Richard Spencer, Bob Sandlund, Rich Gribble and Sydney Yuncevich. Leon commented that since working with Sydney on a grazing plan he has been able to use his resources differently.

3. Contract Approval-Tom Seubert-To break out a CRP field – Scott pointed out it should be an EQIP project, get him to direct seed it. **Leon moves to accept Tom's contract. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

4. Bob Tribelhorn 7:08.

Bob informed the board that he has asked Sydney to sit on a state committee to review grazing standards.

Budget-Bob mentioned that [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) and [nracs.gov](http://nracs.gov) are both good sites to get further information on the new farm bill programs. Bob informed the board that EQIP will be changed, possibly allowing non-profits to apply for funding. Bob suggested the board keep an eye out for the new information. Bob believes that continuing resolution will continue through the end of the year but doesn't know to what extent. Some money has had to be returned, NRCS would like to get some money back to put into programs. A percentage of the financial dollars that come into the state does go to NRCS.

Workload analysis has showed that the Grangeville staff is managing about 77 contracts apiece, highest in the state. Grangeville is understaffed but even if budget constraints weren't here there would probably not be another person added. Engineering is going pretty well. 4 engineers are in the area, up from 2 when Bob first came on staff.

The board questioned Bob about heavy harrow use in the new no till standard. Bob feels he can't address this very effectively right now other than taking the board's concerns back to his boss. He encourages the District to send a letter of concerns to Bob Bartholomew and Richard Sims. Richard pointed out that there are opportunities for forest and wildlife projects with EQIP funding.

Leon commented that Bruce Hanson, NRCS Orofino will be missed, the Grazing Conference Committee has asked him to remain on the Grazing Conference Committee.

Tom asked Bob if the use of TSP has worked. Bob pointed out that it has been helpful. Someone could become certified and work with NRCS to create grassed waterways and conservation plan. Bob suggested it is worth bringing up again after the passing of the new farm bill.

Bob explained that NRCS has gone on a very conservative level of funding. They are hoping to find out in a couple of weeks that business can return as usual. The TSP program had to be cut in order to meet this conservative budget. Only mandatory training was kept, all other was cancelled until further notice on budget has been received.

## **SCC**

**7:45**

**Jessica Wells**

1. Staff Reports-Board reviewed staff reports for Eileen Rowan.
2. POW for Lawyer's Creek-update from Feb 5 Lewis County Meeting-cost share list changes. Discussion about cost list pricing and that there is ability to change prices if needed. **Leon moves to accept the short list of updates to the cost share list. Tom seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**
3. Project kick-off meetings—Idaho Board members are going to attend the Craigmont city hall kick-off meeting on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> with Lewis SWCD. Rather than having a meeting the board would like to advertise using PSA's, newspapers flyers, etc.
4. 319 project update-Jessica contacted Jerry West with the DEQ to ask about the Cottonwood Creek report and to determine why she hadn't received the requested funds yet. The documentation, although received on January 3, was filed in the wrong file and had not been reviewed for payment. This issue has been resolved and payment should be arriving next week.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**8:30**

**Scott Wasem**

1. Audit 07-call for bids-Lewis County pays \$1600 for their audit done by Goffinet and Clack. The board would like Jessica to contact Clearwater County to see who does their audit.
2. 07 Grazing Conference-It went well, 150 people attended. One of the vendors mentioned that more people visited his both at the conference then at two days of the state grazing meeting. Leon is in the process of planning a Grazing Conference Committee meeting for the end of the month for wrap up and to start planning for next year.
3. PNDSA Membership Renewal/ICA-put off payment-The board has decided to table payment of these dues until the unemployment issues have been resolved and it has been determined that there is money in our budget.
4. 319 CC Phase II-Grant extension-Jessica informed the board that in speaking with

Jerry West she asked him about the extension request. He entered their system and told her that it was in their system but that paperwork could take awhile to get out.

5. Annual Work Plan/FY Budget-Scott explained to the board about possible additions/changes to the budget. Leon suggested we turn this budget in to the Commission but create others to use when applying for more funding from the County Commissioners. Leon commented that the County Commissioners have a good understanding of the importance of budgets and their constraints and suggests that the Power Point presented by Scott presses the importance of budgets. Jessica will get the changes for the Annual Work Plan to the board with their minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**8:45**

**Scott Wasem**

1. Board Picture-Jessica was able to get pictures of 3 of the board members for use on the website. The remaining supervisors will hopefully have theirs taken at the next meeting.
2. State Allocation-The District received the second half of their state allocation. A fee of \$339.45 (the Commission paid the other half) to cover Liability Insurance and Fidelity bond was taken out of the allocation. Next year the full amount of \$678.89 will be taken out of the District Allocation.
3. QuickBooks Online Editions letter and review-The Commission has put together a panel to review it and determine what changes may need to be enacted. The board feels it is working for this office.
4. Unemployment Insurance Updates-Jessica explained to the board that three unemployment claims have been received. In talking to Larry Ingram with the Lewiston branch of the unemployment agency Jessica has been told that the agency has no way of going back in time and putting them on the Experienced Rate as of January 1, 2006. The Board would like Jessica to contact the SCC about what help they could offer in this situation. Jessica will contact Jerry Nicholescu tomorrow about the issues the district has been dealing with in regards to unemployment.
5. Dues-Jessica reminded the board that the IDEA and IASCD bills for dues have arrived and the checks have been printed to be signed.
6. Internet/computer-The only way to hook up the existing computer would be to bring in a phone line. Jessica and Scott priced some other options but all seem to be too expensive. Jessica has access to internet through her computer on the NRCS system. **Tom moves to table this discussion to the next meeting. Leon seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**
7. Printing newsletter-The mailing list needs to be reviewed in order to decrease the numbers. The board also suggested to fold newsletters differently and close them with the address label. **Leon moves to let Jessica use her best judgment to get the newsletter printed. Tom seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**
8. Supervisor-FYI Binder Jessica explained to the board that rather than make copies of large documents that the board may or may not be interested in reading she will put them in a binder labeled "Supervisor-FYI". The binder has a check off list and will be located on the bookshelf to the left of Jessica's computer. The supervisor time tracking calendar will also now be located in the binder. If you have any suggestions or additions let Jessica know.

## **ADJOURN**

**Leon moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:50. Ed seconds the motion. No further discussion, vote passes unanimously.**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7**

**6:00 P.M.**