

IDAHO SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

102 South Hall, Grangeville, ID 83530 Wednesday October 2, 2009 6:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 A.M.

Scott Wasem

Scott Wasem called the meeting to order. Supervisors Present: Scott Wasem, Leon Slichter, John Frei, Thomas Seubert, Tom Gehring arrived at 6:30. Others Present: Stefanie Bowman ISWCD, Jessica Wells-IASCD, Richard Spencer –NRCS arrived at 6:05.

MINUTES

6:10 A.M.

Scott Wasem

Leon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S/BILLS REPORT

6:12 A.M.

Scott Wasem

Leon made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. John seconded. Motion carried.

IASCD

6:20 A.M.

Jessica Wells

Payment Applications

SFCR-09 – seeding – 66.3 acres \$1,533.00. *(Funke)*

Leon made a motion to approve the payment application. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-16 –well drilled, 60 gal per minute at 325'. \$6,154.13 *(Ken Stubbers)*

Leon made a motion to approve the payment application. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

LAW-01 – Contract exceeds the \$50,000 maximum contract limit, producer has asked to terminate due to the fact that he has reached the limits. There are still fields remaining that have not been paid. He would like to apply for an additional contract on unpaid fields. Richard suggested a modification to take the non-cost shared ground out of the original contract. Producer will be added to the interested participant list for the SRBA-LAW grant. Board would like planners to be cautious not to contract for more acres than can receive cost share and remain within contract limits. *(Frei Farms)*

STOC-23 – Jessica received a phone call from a board member that he had heard that the producer wants to tear up the remaining seeded ground to rent as cropland. Investigation by Jessica revealed a mathematical error in favor of the producer. The grant owes the producer \$2114.27 due to this miscalculation. Scott said that after the meeting he could contact the producer to find out if he would like reimbursed or if he would like to pay the remaining \$574.43 cost-share. Jessica suggested it would be cleaner if we reimbursed the producer and not offer him the buy out. Let the producer come in and ask to buy out the project. *(Andy Kaschmitter)*

Leon made a motion to repay the producer the error in overpayment. John seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion follows: What would the liquidated damages be if the producer opted to remove the remaining successful BMP's? NRCS charges 10% or 15% of the project costs. A lot of staff time and effort was put into this contract. Jessica contacted Lance Holloway (SCC) to determine what the SCC recommends.

SRBA –Rolling Hills Site: A pond would not be as practical at this site; it would be more efficient and economical to drill a well. The producer would be able to supply water to more pastures with the well option. *(Pat Frei)*

ISCC

7:27 A.M.

Eileen Rowan

Payment application

SFCR-10 – drilled a well 15 gal per minute. Ended at 330' hit water at 260' the well keeps caving in so they can not put the pump in. They will be casing it to make it work. \$4,091.25

Leon made a motion to approve the modification. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-18 – New contract, no till-direct seed. Just need signatures on the forms, was approved at the last board meeting. *(Joe Chicane)*

John made a motion to approve the contract. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-19 – new contract, no till-direct seed. (*Chicane Farms*)

Tom made a motion to approve the contract. Leon seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-20 – mulch till contract. (*Steve Sonnen*)

Leon made a motion to approve the contract. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

SRBA-02 – mulch till – Lawyer Creek (*Steve Sonnen*)

John made a motion to approve the contract. Leon seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-17 – payment application. Mulch till. 1155.00 (*Quinn Wemhoff*)

Leon made a motion to approve the contract. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

SFCR-08 – modification to extend the contract into 2010 so that he can get the gutter and diversion done. (*Greg Arnzen*)

Leon made a motion to approve the modification. John seconded. Motion carried.

NRCS

6:50 A.M.

Sydney Yunceovich

- Board reports – review out of binders. Richard went over the information in his board report.
- CSP 2008 – 21 applications. 2 have canceled. Second highest in the state. May have some public meetings. January 15th is the deadline for the next application process. Will have to do field verifications. They are just finishing up the verifications from the last CSP program.
- Conservation compliance – Richard has been working on this for about a month. Washington, Idaho agreement. It all ties into residue on highly erodible lands. Unplanted fields have to have 1000 lbs. Fall planted fields need to have. Spring crops no residue requirement. Could lose all benefits if found out of compliance. Can be fined on a per acre basis if determined by the county committee to be out of compliance. Wetlands are becoming a more serious problem. If a wetland is destroyed or manipulated, it is a violation and they will lose their benefits for a year. There is no restriction on the size of the wetland. Soils, vegetation, and the duration of saturation constitute a wetland.
- Met the new Assistant State Conservationist that replaced Bob Bartholomew. We are looking at prioritizing land uses for the next signup. They are looking at a new screening tool for applications for EQIP. There is a lot of new wetland reserve funding. This is for wetlands that have been manipulated. There is quite a bit of funding to convert it back to a wetland or to expand it. There has to be some drainage ditches for it to be eligible for WRP funding. Can have an existing wetland that has been manipulated in the past or has been abandoned. It would be eligible for a wetland enhancement.

Misc

7:45 A.M.

U of I requested a letter of support from the District that there be no more than a 6% reduction in their budget from the state legislature.

John made a motion to sign the letter. Leon seconded. Motion carried.

Stu Goldstein suggestions for the Land Exchange from Division II.

Leon made a motion to support the Stu's letter and forward agreement onto Latah. John seconded. Motion carried.

November 30th there will be a meeting regarding the strategic planning. Latah needs to know who is going to be there. At least one board member needs to go.

Summit Academy is putting in a 5 acre windbreak with about 1500 trees. There will be a mixture of bare root and plugs from the U of I and Lawyer Nursery. Could we give them a break and just have them pay for the trees at our cost, the shipping and the taxes charged?

Leon made a motion to give Summit Academy a break on the purchase of trees for a windbreak. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

TB-7 Sydney Yunceovich expressed concern to Jessica in regards to grazing issues. It is possible the landowner has leased the ground to another producer that is unaware of Prescribed Grazing (528) requirements. Currently the signed grazing plan is not being followed. Jessica will contact the landowner to set up an "on the ground" meeting to discuss grazing requirements as well as to discuss the implications that losing the Denver grazing ground has on the grazing plan. If not taken care of he could be found out of compliance. Sydney and Jessica would like to try to encourage a working relationship with the producer before having the board get involved. (*Andy Kaschmitter*)

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. Leon seconded. Motion carried.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009 5:00 P.M.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District may also hold an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345.

Note: Order of agenda topics is subject to change.