

**IDAHO SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING**  
USDA Service Center, 83 Highway 95 N, Grangeville, ID 83530 Wednesday, February 4, 2009 6:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

7:02 A.M.

Scott Wasem

Leon Slichter called the meeting to order. In attendance-John Frei, Tom Gehring, Leon Slichter, Thomas Seubert. IASCD-Jessica Wells Stefanie Bowman-IDSWCD Andy Kaschmitter arrived at 8:10. Janet Hohle arrived at 8:50.

Tom made a motion to go into executive session. Thomas seconded. Roll Call Thomas-Yes, John-Yes, Tom-Yes, Leon-Yes. Motion carried.

Andy Kaschmitter was invited into the meeting at 8:15.

Tom made a motion to come out of executive session. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

Tom made motion to approve the heavy use pad and the corral fence for TB-07 in the amount of \$9,798.00. John seconded. Motion carried.

Andy agreed to repay the cost share of the 30 acres on the North Side at approximately \$1,350.00. Jessica will formulate a statement that will be signed by Andy and one Board member. Andy will repay the cost share in June. Andy will be sent a letter that tells him that all work will be completed by June 30, 2009. As soon as Andy has the fence inspected, we will pay him ASAP, recognizing that DEQ is holding 20% of the funding through the grant. Andy would like to have the fence done by this weekend, while the weather is holding.

**MINUTES**

8:45 A.M.

Scott Wasem

January 16<sup>th</sup> minutes- Tom made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S/BILLS REPORT**

8:55 A.M.

Scott Wasem

Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and bills report as presented. John seconded. Motion carried.

**SRBA Project Opportunity**

9:00 A.M.

Janet Hohle

Janet Hohle-presented the option of an SRBA grant for the Idaho SWCD.

- Lawyer Creek does have a history of being important to fish. Although, right now there are no survey's that show any fish in the creek.
- Need to have 33% match from a non federal source.
- Downsides; the watershed has been heavily impacted, by flooding, etc.
- Upsides; the Idaho SWCD has done a lot of cost share projects; Lawyer Creek is named to the B-list section of the streams, Lawyer Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Lapwai Creek.
- 3 years to fund the program, Janet recommends that we request the full 3 years.
- Top BMP's that were discussed, Direct seed, Janet said is one of the hardest BMP's to sell to politicians, because they cannot show how it impacts fish. Animal feeding operations, which are an easy sell for fish projects and then riparian restoration, are also some of the top BMP's.
- Offsite watering; cattle water in the bottom of Lawyer Creek, so any spring developments or AFO projects would be wonderful to use.
- Janet handed out a budget proposal for this project. She feels that it is very justifiable to have the technical assistance (Jessica's wages) in the budget. Most of the budget is BMP.
- Lewis and Idaho SWCD can put together a very aggressive I & E program to go out and get the information to the public.

- There is a technical review group that is involved that consists of 4-6 people, this is the first step to getting it passed.
- If approved this project needs to be presented by the Idaho SWCD Board to a group of 4 members. It will be done in about 6-8 weeks. It can either be done by phone or in person.
- The Pacific Salmon option is going to be coming up again, so maybe we can tie it into the 319 funding.

**Tom made a motion to have Janet Hohle pursue and turn in the project proposal for SRBA. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.**

Janet also informed the board that the Soil Conservation Commission just adopted their Strategic Plan. It took a year to put the information together and actually develop the plan. The final version will be on the SCC website soon. The SCC has never had a strategic plan before and it will be reviewed annually for any changes.

**NRCS**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Richard Spencer**

Richard presented his board reports.

**CRP**

- a lot of the CRP's are being invaded by ventenata.
- Apparently, NRCS has had a policy regarding burning on CRP that is very stringent.
- If a maintenance burn is required, a burning plan needs to be developed. A person has to be certified to be able to write a burn plan.
- Richard feels that it would be really important that we keep this plan, so they are going to have someone come up and train NRCS to develop a simple burn plan. They would then send that plan on to the state office and it would go from there to the tech service. They could have a burn plan for pastures, but it would then have to be developed separately from the CRP plan.
- Renovation is not getting done on the CRP's, because the state employee is not real fond of the renovation portion of the program.

**Farm Bill**

- With EQIP they want to keep the allocations local. EQIP is a center pivot program.
- NRCS may have 6 different ranking sheets with this portion of the Farm Bill.
- There are a lot of WRP opportunities.
- CSP-there is nothing on the national website. Bob Bartholomew informed Richard that we are going to have CSP, although it is going to be different. The Tier one contracts are done this year; will be losing 1/3 of their contracts. There will be 58.4 million available to producers for the Conservation Program.

**IASCD & ISCC -**

**10:30 A.M.**

**Jessica Wells**

Board Reports – The board reviewed Eileen and Jessica's board reports.

**LAW-01** Land loss –some of the land in his contract was lost, due to the owner of the land passing away. The land was put up for auction, and sold at an amount beyond the actual profit that one would get from farming the land.

**Tom made a motion to excuse the land loss from the LAW-01 contract. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.**

Jessica presented Lawyer Creek, South Fork of the Clearwater, and Lower Salmon Hells Canyon pre-applications through DEQ/319.

**Tom made a motion to turn in the pre-application for Lawyer Creek, South Fork of the Clearwater and Lower Salmon Hells Canyon. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.**

**RCRDP Loan** – can give a producer the ability to purchase equipment through the state. Implements that will help protect soil, for example a direct seed drill. Joe Chicane- Need to rank this project so that he can turn it into the state. CRP is coming out so he wants to purchase a direct seed drill to direct seed 200 acres. Also has other neighbors that

would be interested in renting this drill from him to use on their properties. Great Plains-1510 HD direct seed drill with optional mounts out of Montana. We can ask Joe if he wants to enter into a Direct Seed contract with the District.

**Tom made a motion to approve the RCRDP loan for Joe Chicane. John seconded. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**10:15 A.M.**

**Scott Wasem**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**10:15 A.M.**

**Scott Wasem**

A budget workday was set for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 dependant on the availability of Scott and Tom.

**ADJOURN**

**10:20 A.M.**

**Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 10:10. Tom seconded. Motion carried.**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009 7:00 A.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.