

East Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



Performance Report FY21

(July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)



1361 East 16th Street
Burley, ID 83318
PHONE: (208) 572-3375
ewcswcd@gmail.com
www.minicassiaswcd.com
Board Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm

Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.

2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, and pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.

3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices such as reduced tilling and planting cover crops. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.

4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. The by-product of educating children is that information is then passed on to their parents.

FY2021 Revenue 7/1/20 - 6/30/21

\$ 17,868.29	State - ISWCC
\$ 6,000.00	County
\$ 1,999.48	Tree Sale
\$ 1,439.37	Admin Fees Direct Seed Project
\$ 375.00	Admin Fees LSEE

\$ 27,682.14 TOTAL

Mission Statement

To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.

To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.

District Operations/Accomplishments

Seedling Tree Sale

East Cassia manages the Mini-Cassia Annual Seedling Tree Sale. Despite our office being unavailable to the public, the three districts managed to sell over 3,495 seedlings of the 10 different varieties offered. As always, we talked on the phone to many great people that are dedicated in promoting good conservation practices. This year each of the three districts profited \$1999.48. Income from the tree sales is used to help conduct district educational activities such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, and speech and poster contests.



Projects

The 2 Cassia and the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Mini-Cassia area continue working together to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. 2020 was the sixth year to rent out the Seed drills to landowners. Districts have continued promoting good soil health practices which benefit the landowners in many ways. They encourage the implementation of the 5 Soil Health Principles which include keeping the soil covered, minimizing soil disturbance, including plant diversity, keeping a living root in the soil, and integrating livestock. An annual Soil Health workshop is held in the first quarter of each year to help inform and educate those interested in how cover crop plantings improve soil health. This year's workshop was canceled due to covid but plans are underway for the 7th Annual Soil Health Workshop to be held in February 2022.

Board/Business Meetings

East Cassia SWCD holds monthly board meetings with agendas posted at offices and on the website. Supervisors and district employees attended the Fall 2020 Division IV meeting hosted by Gooding SWCD and the Spring 2021 Division IV meeting by Zoom hosted by Twin Falls Soil & Water Conservation District. Supervisors and employees worked hard since April 2020 to prepare for the 78th annual IASCD conference set for November 10-13th in Burley, but the event was canceled due to covid. All district financial information and documents were/are available for public review.

Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2021 for a \$500 college scholarship to Agustina Gualarte and \$150 to Idaho Ag in the Classroom. This is the district's Twelfth year as a certified Idaho Ag in the Classroom member. The district distributed three Conservation Update Newsletters to approximately 1,000 landowners. East Cassia SWCD supported the Idaho State FFA and 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event CDE where students from regional contest around the state come to Cassia County to compete in the state event. They celebrated 50 Years of land judging and received T-shirts and patches. The Preston FFA placed 1st and the Rigby FFA placed 2nd. NRCS workers, District employees, and SWCD Supervisors provided the equipment and labor. Over 20 volunteers assisted, including County Commissioners and soil Scientists.



Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event 2020

Awards Banquet

In the summer of 2021 Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts held their annual Awards Banquet honoring Irrigation companies in Cassia County for their water conservation efforts throughout the dry summer conditions. The boards welcomed a new Administrative Assistant, Rachele Osterhout and presented Chairman Mark Webb with his 15-year service pin.

Covid Challenges

The Districts' opened a temporary office in the Cassia County Court House so they could continue their service to the public during the Covid-19 NRCS office closures. Many educational activities were canceled or limited. Know Your Government (KYG) activities for youth were reduced, Natural Resource Camp (NRC) along with the Annual Poster and Speech Contests were canceled. To keep the work moving, some meetings were conducted by Zoom.

Operations

In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The district was awarded \$6,000.00 from Cassia County. This funding helps the district with employee payroll, scholarships and awards, and daily district operations. East Cassia manages an additional employee supported by a Technical Assistance Grant. This employee works directly with NRCS staff assisting with their work load and various projects. The districts completed yearly reports and a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021.



East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

Mark Webb	Chairman	73 N Yale Road Declo, ID 83323	mark@heglercreekfarms.com
Steve Ward	Vice-Chairman	2900 S Narrows Road Malta, ID 83342	steward64@live.com
Ken Woodworth	Treasurer	51 N 3350 E American Falls, ID 83211	ctrfarms@hotmail.com
Hannah Sanders	Member	3485 S. 2750 E. Declo, ID 83323	hannahsanders722@gmail.com
Rob Cottle	Member	Malta, ID 83342	cottleranch@gmail.com

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE
REPORT
CERTIFICATION**

DISTRICT:

East Cassia SWCD

FOR YEAR:

FY 2021

DUE :

December 20, 2021

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Ken Woodward

Board Supervisor Signature

Ken Woodward

Printed Name

11-11-21

Date

208-572-3375

District Telephone

ewcswwcd@gmail.com

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: