



**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING & AGENDA**  
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
February 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. MT

**Idaho State Capitol Bldg**  
**House Majority Caucus Rm E403 (4<sup>th</sup> floor)**

**TELECONFERENCE # (888) 706-6468 Passcode: 6913014**

The Commission will occasionally convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345.  
Executive Session is closed to the public.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE**

*The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission at (208) 332-1790 or Info@swc.idaho.gov so advance arrangements can be made.*

*Members of the public may address any item on the Agenda during consideration of that item. Those wishing to comment on any agenda item are requested to indicate so on the sign-in sheet in advance. Copies of agenda items, staff reports and/or written documentation relating to items of business on the agenda are on file in the office of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Boise. Upon request, copies can be emailed and will also be available for review at the meeting.*

	1.	<b>WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL</b>	Chairman Wright
	2.	<b>AGENDA REVIEW</b> <i>Agenda may be amended after the start of the meeting upon a motion that states the reason for the amendment and the good faith reason the item was not included in the original agenda.</i>	Chairman Wright
	3.	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
*#	a.	Minutes 1. January 28, 2015 ACTION: Approve	Chairman Wright
*#	b.	Financial Report 1. January 31, 2015 ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	c.	Administrator's Report ( <i>see attachments a, b, &amp; c</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming Germane Committee Schedule, Ag Summit</li> <li>• Spring IASCD Division Schedule/Assignments</li> </ul>	Murrison

(\* ) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Mon. Feb. 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: Feb. 9, 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment of 2015 NASCA Dues, consideration of authorizing ongoing membership and participation by Administrator</li> <li>• Strategic Plan Concepts</li> <li>• Whiskey Creek article, Capitol Press</li> </ul> <p>ACTION: Approve the payment of 2015 National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) dues, authorize ongoing membership and participation by Administrator</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
a.	<p>Reports</p> <p>ACTION: For information only</p>	Commissioners, Staff
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b></p> <p><i>Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho Code Sections noted below, all Board action will be taken publicly in open session directly following Executive Session.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(d), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications.</p>	
a.	<p><b>RESOURCE CONSERVATION &amp; RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b></p> <p>Pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(d), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loan #580</li> </ol> <p>ACTION: For information only</p>	Hoebelheinrich
<b>6.</b>	<p>RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION to ADJOURN.</p> <p><i>The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of April 9, 2015, in Boise.</i></p>	

(\*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Mon. Feb. 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: Feb. 9, 2015



# Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720  
Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

**Date and Time:**

Wed., January 28, 2015  
From 8:00 am – 1:00 pm MST

**Location:**

Len B. Jordan Building, Room B35  
650 W. State Street  
Boise, Idaho

### DRAFT MINUTES

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Norman Wright (Chair)	Jerry Trebesch (Secretary)
David Radford	Leon Slichter

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Roger Stutzman (Vice-Chair)

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

1 Teri Murrison	Terry Hoebelheinrich
2 Delwyne Trefz	Carolyn Watts
3 Cheryl Wilson	Carolyn Firth
4	

**PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

5 Harriet Hensley, Office of the Attorney General  
6 Keith Reynolds, Department of Administration  
7 Robin Finch, Department of Administration  
8 Art Beal, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
9 Glen Grier, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
10 Kit Tillotson, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
11 Steven Becker, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
12 Benjamin Kelley, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
13 Robbie Taylor, Idaho District Employees Association  
14 Joshua Uriarte, Idaho Office of Species Conservation  
15 Anita Hamann, Department of Financial Management  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

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21 **ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

22 Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

23 Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter, Jerry Trebesch and Dave  
24 Radford were present. Commissioner Roger Stutzman was absent.

25

26 **ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW** (*amendment attached*)

27 Commissioner Radford moved to amend the agenda to remove from item seven, the reference  
28 to Idaho Code 67-2345(d), because there are no loan applications requiring review by the  
29 Commission. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

30

31 **ITEM #3: PARTNER REPORTS**

32 Action: None taken

33 *IDEA Partner Report attached*

34

35 **ITEM #4a: MINUTES**

36 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the November 19, 2014 with a name spelling  
37 correction to line 8, and the December 10, 2014 Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Slichter  
38 seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

39

40 **ITEM #4b: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

41 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve Items 4b1-3, the October, 2014, November,  
42 2014 and December 2014 Financial Reports, as submitted. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the  
43 motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

44

45 **ITEM #4c: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

46 Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve item B, Agreement for Training  
47 Reimbursement for Allan Johnson. Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Motion carried  
48 by unanimous vote.

49

50 **ITEM #5: RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

51 Action: None taken.

52

53 A short break was taken from 12:30 to 12:40 p.m.

54

55 **ITEM #7: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

56 Action: Chairman Wright moved to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-  
57 2345(b) for the purpose of considering the evaluation of a public employee. Commissioner  
58 Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

59 Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter, Jerry Trebesch and Dave  
60 Radford were present. Commissioner Roger Stutzman was absent.

61

62 Executive Session commenced at 12:40 p.m. Ms. Murrison was present during Executive Session.  
63 Executive Session ended at 2:05 p.m. Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 2:05 p.m.  
64 and took no action.

65

66 **ITEM #8: ADJOURN:**

67 The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next Commission Meeting will be held via  
68 teleconference on Monday, February 16, 2015.

69

70 Respectfully submitted,

71

72

73

74 | Jerry Trebesch, Secretary

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DRAFT

Soil and Water Conservation  
FY2015 YTD Financial Summary Through 01/31/15

Updated: 2/5/2015

**Fund Summaries**

**Appropriation**

Fund Source	General Fund				Professional Services				RCRDP Loan Administration				Revolving Loan			
<b>Personnel Funds</b>	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining					Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining				
	\$ 1,043,300	\$ 614,764	\$ 380,247	\$ 27,373					\$ 151,400	\$ 91,381	\$ 58,856	\$ 1,163				
<b>Operating Funds</b>	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining
	\$ 240,500	\$ 143,791	\$ 58,452	\$ 38,257	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,888	\$ 1,283	\$ 15,829	\$ 146,100	\$ 43,214	\$ 67,336	\$ 35,550	\$ 30,000	\$ 4,427	\$ 4,427	\$ 21,146
<b>Capital Funds</b>	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining												
	\$ 58,078	\$ 38,139	\$ 19,084	\$ 855												
<b>Trustee and Benefit</b>	Budget	Expenditures	Expenditures Projected	Remaining												
	\$ 1,203,200	\$ 1,203,200	\$ -	\$ -												

**Cash Balance at 01/31/15**

Fund Source	General Fund				Professional Services				RCRDP Loan Administration				Revolving Loan			
	Beg Cash at 7/1/14	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/14	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/14	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance	Beg Cash at 7/1/14	Plus Total Receipts	Less Total Expenses	Actual Cash balance
	\$ 2,545,708	\$ -	\$ 1,999,894	\$ 545,814	\$ 8,255	\$ 6,805	\$ 2,888	\$ 12,172	\$ 6,157,846	\$ 367,212	\$ 134,595	\$ 6,390,463	\$ 17,369	\$ 12,612	\$ 4,427	\$ 25,554

SWC REPORT SUMMARY AS OF January 31, 2015

GENERAL FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH				
FY15	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month		BUDGET	EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month		BUDGET	EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month		BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month		BEG CASH AT 7/1/14	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	CASH BALANCE End of Current Month	
		Month	BALANCE		Month	BALANCE		Month	BALANCE		Month	BALANCE					
INDEX																	
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE	213,200	127,404	85,796	59,600	50,336	9,264			0				272,800		177,740	95,060	
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	2,700	2,402	298	17,400	5,810	11,590			0			0	20,100		8,212	11,888	
7201 FIELD STAFF	473,200	281,555	191,645	109,300	66,042	43,258	58,708	38,139	20,569			0	641,208		385,735	255,473	
7301 PROGRAMS	226,200	125,757	100,443	36,150	9,850	26,300			0			0	262,350		135,606	126,744	
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS						0			0		1,103,200	1,103,200	0	1,103,200		1,103,200	0
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BUILDING						0			0		100,000	100,000	0	100,000		100,000	0
7350 CREP	128,000	77,648	50,352	18,050	11,752	6,298			0				0	146,050		89,400	56,650
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,043,300	614,764	428,536	240,500	143,791	96,709	58,708	38,139	20,569	1,203,200	1,203,200	0	2,545,708	0	1,999,894	545,814	
		58.92%			59.79%						100.00%				78.56%		
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	0	0	0	20,000	2,888	17,112			0	0	0	0	8,255	6,805	2,888	12,173	
TOTAL FUND 0450	0	0	0	20,000	2,888	17,112	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,255	6,805	2,888	12,173	
					14.44%											34.98%	
DEDICATED FUND	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			CASH				BALANCE SHEET			
FY15	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month		BUDGET	EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month		BUDGET	EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month		BEG CASH AT 7/1/14	PLUS TOTAL REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	ACTUAL CASH BALANCE End of Current Month	NOTES RECEIVABLE 7/1/14	LOANS PAID OUT, COLLECTIONS /ADJUSTMENTS TO DATE	NOTES RECEIVABLE End of Cur period	
		Month	BALANCE		Month	BALANCE		Month	BALANCE								
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMINISTRATIVE	151,400	91,381	60,019	146,100	43,214	102,886	0	0	0	6,157,846	367,712	134,595	6,390,963	3,910,931	221,317	3,643,932	
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	151,400	91,381	60,019	146,100	43,214	102,886	0	0	0	6,157,846	367,712	134,595	6,390,963		(488,316)		
		60.36%			29.58%												
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ	0	0	0	30,000	4,427	25,573	0	0	0	17,369	12,612	4,427	25,553	633,715	(60,720)	572,995	
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	4,427	25,573	0	0	0	17,369	12,612	4,427	25,553				
					14.76%									ADV FROM PAYMENTS/ADJ TO DATE 576,799		ADV FROM END OF CUR PERIOD 515,723	



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 3ca

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH**  
**FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2015 REPORT**

### Upcoming Germane Committee Meeting Schedule, Ag Summit

Germane Committee presentations have been scheduled in conjunction with IASCD and Commissioner Radford's confirmation hearing as follows:

- Feb. 16, 1:30 pm, House Agricultural Affairs (ISWCC/IASCD presentations), EW 42
- Feb. 17, 8:00 am, Senate Agricultural Affairs (Commissioner Radford confirmation hearing, presentations), WW 53
- Feb. 18, 1:30 pm, House Environment, Energy, & Technology (ISWCC/IASCD presentations), EW 41
- Feb. 23, 1:30 pm, Senate Resources & Environment (ISWCC/IASCD presentations), WW 55
- Feb. 25, 1:30 pm (TENTATIVE), House Resources (ISWCC/IASCD presentations), EW 40

The Larry Branen Ag Summit is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. The Ag Summit begins on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 with the Strolling Supper, and concludes at 5:00 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> (see attached Program).

### Spring IASCD Division Meeting Schedule/Assignments

Listed below are the dates and locations of Spring IASCD Division meetings. The Chairman has assigned Commissioners to represent the Commission as indicated. Should you be available to attend other Division meetings, please let Carolyn know so she can register you in advance.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Hosting District – Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Commissioner Rep</u>
Division I	Bonner SWCD – Sandpoint	March 27	Slichter
Division II	Lewis SCD – Craigmont	March 26	Slichter
Division III	Owyhee CD – Homedale	February 24	Trebesch
Division IV	Gooding SCD – Hagerman	March 12	Stutzman
Division V	Oneida SWCD – Pocatello	March 18	Wright
Division VI	Clark SCD – Dubois	March 17	Radford

### Payment of 2015 NASCA Dues, Consideration of Authorizing Ongoing Membership, Participation

Attached please find a copy of a letter from Mike Brown, Executive Director for NASCA along with an invoice for our 2015 NASCA dues. Since last June, we've found NASCA to be a helpful resource and ally in developing comments on federal agency policies and rules, and have successfully used the network a number of times, including recently to identify conservation planning consultants that might be able to assist in a possible update of OnePlan in future years.

As you know, the Commission paid 2014 dues and Chairman Wright, Commissioner Radford, Steven Smith, and I attended the Annual Conference last September (Chairman Wright and I received full

scholarships to do so). It was the consensus of the group that there is a significant benefit to belonging to NASCA. Mike Brown's letter asks for ISWCC's ongoing participation in two ways: paying annual dues (\$3,000 in 2015), and participating actively in NASCA. After conferring with the Chair, I accepted a position on the NASCA Board as Pacific Region Director representing Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

As a result of our positive relations and experience with the staff and members of NASCA, staff recommends that your Board authorizes payment of 2015 dues and ongoing membership and Administrator participation. Should NASCA membership prove not to be beneficial or be cost prohibitive in future years, staff will return to your Board with a revised recommendation.

#### Strategic Plan Concepts

At your meeting staff will present a rough conceptual outline of the FY 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. The outline will reflect direction from DFM and address changes recommended by partners, staff, and Commissioners at the December 10, 2014 Strategic Planning Session.

#### Whiskey Creek Article

Attached is a copy of another article about the Southeastern Idaho conservation partners' efforts on Whiskey Creek. As you will remember, our December newsletter also covered it extensively. The project will serve as a major focus of our Voluntary Conservation Summit tour for EPA and others in July.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the payment of 2015 National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) dues, authorize ongoing membership and participation by Administrator.

#### Attachments:

- Program for 2015 Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit, The Science of Soil: Agriculture's Dirty Little Secret
- NASCA Letter & 2015 Invoice for Membership Dues
- Whiskey Creek Article, Capitol Press, Feb. 5, 2015

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THE 21ST ANNUAL  
**2015 LARRY BRANEN  
IDAHO AG SUMMIT**

THE SCIENCE OF SOIL: **AGRICULTURE'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET**

## 2015 Conference Schedule

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:30P All Idaho Strolling Supper w/ Idaho Legislators

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:30A Summit Registration

8:00A Opening Session

Remarks from Co-chairman Jim Lowe  
Introduction of Dr. Larry Branen

**Keynote: Dr. Paul McDaniel, U of I CALS**  
"Idaho's Soils - How We Got Them and Why It Matters"

2015 Pat Takasugi Leadership Award Presentation

9:45A Break

10:00A **How Soil Functions**

Marlon Winger, *Agronomist, USDA NRCS*

11:15A **Reception for  
Governor's Awards Winners & Guests**

11:45A Seating for Governor's Awards Luncheon

12:00P **Governor's Awards Idaho Luncheon**  
"Excellence in Agriculture"  
Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

2:00P **USDA Safety Net - Implementation of Farm Bill**  
Mark Samson, *FSA Executive Director*

3:15P Break

3:45P **Healthy Soils from a Producer Perspective**  
Moderator: Amber Moore, *U of I CALS*



### DR. PAUL McDANIEL | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DEPT. HEAD - PLANT, SOIL, & ENTOMOLOGICAL SCIENCES - U OF I CALS

**TOPIC: Idaho's Soils - How We Got Them and Why It Matters**

Quick Bio:

- B.S. in Biology from University of Kentucky
- M.S. in Soil Science (Geology minor) from Montana State University
- Ph.D in Soil Science (Geology minor) from North Carolina State University
- Instructor at North Carolina State University from 1984-88
- Adjunct Assistant Professor at Montana State University from 1989-90
- Assistant Professor at University of Idaho from 1990-2002
- Affiliate Faculty in Costa Rica for CATIE since 2001
- Technical Editor, *Soil Science Society of America Journal* from 2006-2011
- Professor (Soil & Land Resources Division) at University of Idaho since 2002

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RECEIVED

JAN 29 2015

IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 20, 2015

Teri Murrison  
Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
650 W. State St. Room 145  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Teri Murrison:

NASCA members realize a tremendous value as a result of their participation with the organization. Through exposure to their counterparts from all over the country, the NASCA network facilitates information exchange between all of our members. Using membership dues, our association is able to provide tools and resources utilizing this network, enhancing every state's capacity to deliver conservation effectively and efficiently. This benefit alone is a valuable return on investment for member state agencies.

NASCA asks that you support the organization in two ways: the first is financially by paying 2015 NASCA dues; and secondly by actively participating in the organization. NASCA provides a number of services to its membership, and each of these is enhanced when more members get involved. A few examples are explained in detail at <http://www.nascanet.org/index.php/about-us/benefits-of-membership>. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss current NASCA activities and what issues are most critical to your state. I believe NASCA best serves its members when we are engaged in those conservation issues of key concern to our membership, so your feedback is critical to our success. My cell number is (302)270-8624 if you cannot reach me at my office number listed above. You can also reach me via email at [mike-brown@nascanet.org](mailto:mike-brown@nascanet.org).

Thank you again for supporting NASCA. I look forward to another prosperous year in 2015 and working closely with as many of our member states as possible!

Sincerely,



Mike Brown  
NASCA executive Director



## INVOICE

Bill to:	Invoice #	Date
State of Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission 650 W. State St. Room 145 Boise, ID 83702	2015-112	01-20-2015

Description	Amount
NASCA Annual Membership Services 2015	3,000

*Thank You!*  
Partial Payments are welcome

**NASCA's Tax ID#: 52-1316337**

**Checks Payable to NASCA**

Please send vendor update forms to the contact address or email to Mike Brown

**Contact:**

Mike Brown [mike-brown@nascanet.org](mailto:mike-brown@nascanet.org)

(302) 492-8881

P.O. Box 211

Hartly, DE 19953



# Whiskey Creek gets new lease on life

By **HEATHER SMITH THOMAS**  
For the Capital Press

A 140-acre farm near Grace, Idaho, is the site of a remarkable transformation — it's where a portion of Whiskey Creek has been returned to its natural state.

About 60 years ago a farmer diverted the creek, using it to wash away the hillside to create a level spot for a dairy barn so he wouldn't have to build it on farm ground, according to Allan Johnson, staff engineer for the Caribou Soil Conservation District in Soda Springs, Idaho.

Chris Banks, the water quality resource consultant for the district, said Whiskey Creek was on the list of degraded streams in the state.

"Allan and I approached Max Nichols, the current owner, to see what he might be willing to do. Though the farm was no longer a dairy, there were waste contamination issues. When we explained the proposed project to put the creek back into a natural channel, he was all for it," Banks says.

"Max put in a lot of his own time and money to help, and accepted our suggestions on how to correct various issues. He also gave us some good ideas. The key to success of this project was several people working together to find the best ways to do this," Banks says.

The old barn was removed and materials were salvaged and donated to the Salt Lake City Boys & Girls Club for its new building. The old corrals were relocated.

Johnson surveyed the site and designed a new stream channel. "I wanted to create a typical meandering stream,



Heather Smith Thomas/For the Capital Press  
High school students help lay out sod during a reconstruction project that put a portion of Whiskey Creek back into a natural channel.

similar to what it would have been before it was put into that giant culvert," Johnson says. He tried to mimic nature as much as possible.

Students from North Gem High School helped lay 20,000 square feet of sod and planted more than 600 willows and dogwoods along the new channel.

"That was Max Nichols' favorite parts of this whole project — having kids participate," says Banks.

"Now the landowner wants this to be a place where people can come see what can be done regarding conservation.

fish," Banks says.

"After the project was finished in November, we had a donation from PacifiCorp to put vegetative mats along the banks to help hold the soil in place. ... They contain rushes and sedges — typical stream-bank vegetation," explains Banks.

Teri Murrison, Idaho Soil and Water Commission, says it's been an exciting project.

"We have a core group of active people who want to do the right thing and are very creative. This project exemplifies the passion they have for doing good things for the land and for agriculture," she says.

"I was there in October and it was exciting to see it. Just a few weeks after they completed rerouting the stream — even before the sod was put down — there were already fish again in that part of the stream," says Murrison.

He wants to spread the word about stewardship, showing that agriculture can be good for the land. This project was beneficial for him, his beef cattle, and the stream and

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