

# East Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



1361 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street

Burley, ID 83318

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SWCD Board Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00

## 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, 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. 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 the their parents.

## FY2015 Revenue 7/1/14-6/30/15

\$ 14,714.56	State- SWC
\$ 5,000.00	County
\$ 1,330.66	Tree Sale
\$ 500.00	Administrative Funds
\$ 1,410.77	Other income

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**\$ 22,955.99 TOTAL**

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## 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

In early spring, East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia SWCD's held their annual Tree Sale, selling 2,500 seedling trees to community patrons and landowners around the area. Hybrid and Lombardy poplars were popular choices this year as new windbreak projects were started in the area. This is a great opportunity for the districts to reach out to the community and promote good conservation practices. This additional income to the districts helps to further incorporate good conservation practices and programs in the area.

### Website

In January the districts built a website that includes East Cassia, West Cassia, and Minidoka Districts. The website was very beneficial to the seedling tree sale this past year as customers were able to directly print off order forms and get information on the seedling varieties directly off the webpage. The website also included Direct Seed program information, Educational programs, information on the three boards, and districts operation. The districts are still working on including more information on the website.

### .Awards Banquet

An Awards Banquet was held March to honor landowners and farmers in the area who have been outstanding leaders in conservation efforts. East Cassia board welcomed Brook Holtman to the board. The board honored Jeff Johnson as Cooperator of the Year. Together with West Cassia board, Madilyn Patterson was welcomed as the newest district employee.

### Supervisor Board Meetings

Board meetings were open to the public and budget and financial statements were available for review.

**Summer Picnic**

In July, East Cassia, West Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD’s, held a Summer Picnic and invited County Commissioners to attend. Minidoka SWCD hosted the picnic this year at the Paul Splash Park. College Scholarships were awarded, NRC camp scholarship recipients reported on camp activities, and Brian Kossman spoke about the district’s Direct Seed Drill program.

**Meetings**

Supervisors and district employees attended the Spring and Fall Division IV meetings. District reports were presented and districts learned about proper meeting procedures. Chairman Mark Streeter attended the IASCD annual conference held in Boise, and reported to the board on the conference at the December board meeting.

**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 districts also completed yearly reports due to ISWCC and submitted a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

**Education and Outreach**

East Cassia awarded two college scholarship of \$500.00 each to high school seniors who will be majoring in an agricultural related field. The district awarded 50.00 in Poster Contest awards. Donations were given to support Envirothon, Forestry Contest, KYG, NRCS, and the IASCD Conference. East Cassia Supervisors volunteered time to help with the Land and Soil Evaluation Event held on October 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Eighteen FFA teams and 3 4-H teams competed this year at the event. A \$50.00 donation was given to High Country RC&D in support of cloud seeding. Together, East and West Cassia had a booth display at the local fair educating patrons on the benefits of windbreaks and information on the seedling trees the districts have available for purchase every spring. Information on the Direct Seed Project was also displayed. The Direct Seed Drills were on display in both the Cassia and Minidoka Fair parades. East Cassia and West Cassia together distributed three newsletters to the community, educating locals on different conservation efforts. The districts are currently looking into updating their mailing list to ensure that the new landowners are receiving the newsletters.

**Projects**

East Cassia, West Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD’s have been working jointing to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. Last year the districts were awarded a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant that allowed the districts to purchase two direct seed drills. The districts collaborated to bring a program to the area that would promote good conservation practices. The districts have been renting both drills out this year to landowners for test plots, as well as offering a cover crop seed rebate to landowners who purchase cover crop seed up to 40 acres. Fifty-six people attended the Cover Crop Tour hosted by the districts this fall. Landowners were able to see cover crop and direct seed drill practices implemented. Sixty-six people attended the Direct Seed Drill workshop held in February of this year. The districts would like to specifically thank the County Commissioners for use of the Commissioner’s Chambers to host the event.

**Future Projects**

The district will continue to work jointly with NRCS and the ISWCC to promote conservation programs. In January 2016, West Cassia, East Cassia, and Minidoka will host a direct seed drill workshop. There will be two nationally known keynote speakers at the workshop: Brendon Rocky & Keith Berns. Landowners will also be getting pesticide credit for attending the workshop. The districts are currently working on putting together a Local Working Group. This committee would meet to discuss priority concerns in the area and to give suggestions as to ways to help get programs and conservations practices started in this area.



**East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors (see picture, left to right)**

Mark Streeter	Chairman	1528 S 3350 E Malta, ID 83342	str_mark@yahoo.com
Steve Ward	Member	2900 S Narrows Road Malta, ID 83342	steward64@live.com
Brook Holtman	Member	PO Box 74, Malta, ID 83342	bholtman43@gmail.com
Mark Webb	Vice Chairman	73 N Yale Road Declo, ID 83323	mark@heglercreekfarms.com
Ken Woodworth	Treasurer	51 N 3350 E American Falls, ID 83211	ctrfarms@hotmail.com

IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

East Cassia SWCD

FOR YEAR:

2015

DUE :

December 20, 2015

**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.

Mark Sturtevant

Board Supervisor Signature

Mark Sturtevant

Printed Name

12-14-15

Date

678-1225 x 100

District Telephone

elwswcd@prh.org

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: