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ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Leon Slichter and Dave Radford were present. Commissioner Jerry Trebesch and Roger Stutzman were absent.

ITEM #3: LISTENING SESSION

Chairman Wright asked Administrator Murrison to comment on the meeting she attended in the Governor's Office on Monday, November 17th in Boise. She shared that the Governor's staff said he is going to begin spotlighting state agencies in his monthly newsletter and solicited participation from agencies. In addition, cabinet members and staff discussed potential initiatives in the Governor's next term. She also gave an update on the FY 2016 budget request and encouraged partners to attend the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting on December 10th in Boise. She responded affirmatively to Billie Brown of IASCD's question re if written comments can be submitted prior to the meeting. She also announced that George Hitz, formerly of Miles City, Montana, has been hired as a Water Quality Resource Conservationist in Division 5 and will be stationed in Blackfoot. Finally, Administrator Murrison talked about the planned tri-state conservation commission meeting to be held with the Washington and Oregon Commissions next July. Chairman Wright then opened the floor for partner comments. They were as follows:

- Chuck Kiester commented that securing cooperation from federal agencies with Districts is a commission responsibility under statute. He stated that the Owyhee District is having difficulty getting the Bureau of Land Management to involve them in planning efforts and that many Districts are having difficulty getting agencies to work with them - the federal agencies often do things without involving the Districts. Commissioner Radford suggested that in addition to whatever facilitation the Commission can provide, the appropriate motivator would be a contact with the District's congressional representatives. Mr. Kiester also requested that if the Commission comes into the District to do a staff training, that the District be advised and included in the meeting or group training if it would benefit Districts.
- Kyle Wilson stated that he feels the technical assistance request process is a cumbersome and divisive process. He further noted:
 - SWC personnel being asked to provide administration-type work for Districts
 - Districts should prepare a list of project tasks and supporting information.
 - SWC should estimate hours for those tasks.
 - Once hours are determined, SWC should allocate staff time.
 - Districts would like regular communication of project status (suggested green, yellow, red depending on completion vs. goals)
 - Discussion of how to rank projects if given back to SWC to rank
- Billie Brown commended Mark Hogen, Commission staff in Coeur d'Alene, for his flexibility and visibility.

- 59 • Chuck Kiester suggested that next year the Listening Session be scheduled during the
60 conference to increase participation. He observed that most people at the conference did
61 not stay for the Listening Session.
- 62 • Commissioner Radford observed that he would appreciate the opportunity for an award to
63 Commission staff during the annual IASCD banquet. Billie Brown, IASCD Board member,
64 welcomed the idea and requested that the Commission develop criteria upon which to base
65 awards. Administrator Murrison said that she will ask the Commission leadership team to
66 come up with those criteria and will forward it to IASCD for inclusion in the IASCD awards
67 nomination packets sent to Districts every year.
- 68 • Kyle Wilson expressed appreciation for the efforts to improve relations between Districts and
69 the Commission over the last 6 years. He noted “a lot of progress since then.”
- 70 • An unidentified commenter stated that youth education is good and key to moving
71 conservation and natural resources in a successful direction.
- 72 • Commissioner Radford initiated a discussion asking about how IDEA staff would like support
73 and inclusion; would appreciate task requests (example: District contacts listing)
- 74 • Discussion of District Staffing
- 75 • Districts are on soft money
- 76 • Districts have a hard time finding good staff, and then keeping them.
- 77 • Retiring NRCS State Conservationist Jeff Burwell shared observations and suggestions
78 including:
- 79 • Mr. Burwell stressed that District success is tied to hiring key staff with the
80 appropriate skills. He suggested Districts ask themselves “What’s the best way to
81 serve the clientele to get projects on the ground?” He strongly recommended
82 consolidated approaches – that Districts look at consolidating as a new strategy to
83 strengthen the delivery of services.
- 84 • RCPP grants – 1:1 match, key to success is finding the maximum match possible. He
85 noted that NRCS’ RCPP program is limited to technical assistance vs. a funding source
86 and recommended Districts pursue small, focused projects.
- 87 • He further suggested that communication strategies are very important, both to
88 communicating successes and to attracting additional partners and additional
89 funding. He stressed that new partners should be included beyond the Commission
90 and NRCS including EPA, DEQ, OSC, IDWR, and the Governor’s office.

91 Action: None taken.

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93 **ITEM #4: ADJOURN:**

94 The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. The next Commission Meeting will be held on
95 December 10, 2014 in Boise.

96
97 Respectfully submitted,

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101 Jerry Trebesch, Secretary