



IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING **AMENDED** NOTICE & AGENDA

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

March 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MT

Location: Idaho Water Center, 322 E Front St, **IDWR Conference Room 602C, The Boise Room**, Boise

TELECONFERENCE # 1-877-820-7831 Passcode: 922837

Meeting Available via GoToMeeting

Follow Link Below

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/647796325>

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 so indicate 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.

The Commission will occasionally convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1). 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.

1.	WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL	Chairman Wright
2.	PARTNER REPORTS (for information only)	
* 3.	AGENDA REVIEW (<i>potential action item</i>) The Agenda may be amended by formal Board action, if necessary, at the meeting. If so, a motion that states the reason for the amendment and the good faith reason the item was not included in the original agenda will be made and approved by the Board.	Chairman Wright
ACTION ITEMS		
4.	ADMINISTRATIVE	
*# a.	DISCUSSION OF PENDING LEGISLATION TO DISSOLVE THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACTION: For consideration and possible action to approve and authorize chairman to sign response letter to IASCD letter of February 28, 2020.	Chairman Wright Murrison
POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS		

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission consideration

Wednesday, March. 4, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: Feb. 28, 2020

5.	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION <i>Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho Code Section(s) noted below, any Board action will be taken publicly in open session directly following Executive Session.</i></p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f) for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated with legal counsel.</p> <p><u>Roll Call Vote</u></p>	Chairman Wright
a.	<p>PENDING LITIGATION</p> <p>The Commission will discuss pending or imminent litigation with legal counsel.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> For information and possible action to direct legal counsel to act in pending or imminent litigation.</p>	Chapple Knowlton
<p>ADJOURN</p> <p><i>The next Regular Commission Meeting will be on April 9, 2020, at 10:00 AM MT in Boise, Idaho.</i></p>		Chairman Wright

(*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission consideration

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 Meeting Agenda

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H. Norman Wright
Chairman

Cathy Roemer
Vice Chairman

Erik Olsen
Secretary

Gerald Trebesch
Commissioner

Wendy Pratt
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison
Administrator

**TO: CHAIRMAN NORMAN WRIGHT and COMMISSIONERS CATHY ROEMER,
ERIK OLSEN, GERALD TREBESCH, WENDY PRATT**
FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: MARCH 2, 2020
**RE: FY 2021 BUDGET FAILURE TO PASS HOUSE AND PENDING LEGISLATION TO
DISSOLVE THE COMMISSION**

FY 2021 Budget's Failure to Pass the House

As you know, the Commission's FY 2021 budget passed in the morning of February 27th, and after a Motion to Reconsider was made in the afternoon, ultimately failed to pass the House. You'll read in Representative Gibbs' column in the News Examiner from Feb. 28th (Attachment A), the statement was never intended to fail our Appropriations Bill and that after adding back a few hundred dollars to the bill, JFAC could recommend approval of a new budget bill as soon as this week to the House. I've also attached a copy of Representative Christiansen's column (Attachment A).

Together, their reports indicate that the legislators who voted to punish the Commission for its adherence to state law and administrative procedure do not realize that district boards are comprised – not of mere volunteers, but of duly elected officials just like themselves. They don't realize that district supervisors are men and women who should possess the knowledge, skills, and ability to honor their solemn oaths to public service and to uphold their fiduciary responsibility.

As you are well aware, overseers of public funds appropriated to the Commission for the benefit of Idaho's 50 conservation districts, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission has a responsibility to ensure that funds are distributed in accordance with the law and that districts receive the funding to which they are entitled.

Districts receive base and match funding from the state. Match funding distribution is governed by Idaho Code § 22-2727 and the Rules for Allocation of Funds to Conservation Districts (IDAPA 60.05.04). The Commission can only distribute match funds to match donations made by local governments or organizations in the previous fiscal year for the general purposes of the district. The Commission can't match funds collected by the district as payment for service or funds that are earmarked for specific projects. When applying for match funds, District employees generally prepare match reports setting forth their claimed donations and supporting documentation for those donations. The District Boards are required under IDAPA 60.05.04 to review those match reports and certify the content as "true and correct" before the reports are submitted to the Commission.



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In August 2017, Commission staff discovered that Ms. Dettmer, an employee for the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, had made ongoing misrepresentations between 2013 – 2017 on the district's Match Reports, claiming funds were donations for general purposes of the district, when in fact they were payments for water assessments the district collected on behalf of Water District 13A, payments for services, or funds donated for special projects. It had been represented to the Commission that those reports had been reviewed by the Franklin Board of Supervisors and had been certified as true and accurate. Currently, the Commission believes the amount of monies to which Franklin received to which it wasn't entitled may amount to almost \$160,000. If not distributed to Franklin, those funds would have been distributed to the other 49 conservation districts in the State.

As required by the State Controller's Fiscal Activities Guidelines for Reporting Fraud, staff informed the administrator and contacted the Attorney General's Office (AG). After a criminal investigation and trial by the Attorney General's office, Ms. Dettmer was convicted of two counts of forgery.

Believing that it was important to recover funds that were appropriated to Franklin based on misrepresentations which should have been allocated to the other conservation districts in the state; the Commission commenced a civil action in August 2019 to recover funds distributed to Franklin in FYs 2014-2017. The suit named Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, its Board of Supervisors, the members of the Board of Supervisors and Lyla Dettmer individually and in their official capacities, and the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program, the District's surety.

The Commission didn't choose lightly to litigate, but chose to sue in order to recover public funds ineligibly distributed to Franklin that should have been distributed to Idaho's 49 other conservation districts.

Pending Legislation to Dissolve the Commission

Also consistent with what Legislators Gibbs and Christensen note in their columns, there exists a well-coordinated campaign to dissolve the Commission. Last week I became aware that Senator Harris from the same legislative district as Rep. Gibbs has been engaged with IASCD, drafting legislation to dissolve the Commission and appropriate the funds directly to districts or to a network of "super districts" instead. Apparently the plan is to introduce the legislation at the end of the session when there would be "little chance" of passage to tee it up for discussion next session. We weren't informed by IASCD, but it came to our attention as a result of their executive director Benjamin Kelly's report to Division III on Wednesday (follows on page three), and a letter (Attachment B) from Steve Becker to the districts which was copied, but not directed to your Board. I have been asking Benjamin for months if such legislation was coming. He told me repeatedly that he was not aware of any and that there was not.



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Notes from February 27th Division III Meeting

The following Notes were taken by Delwyne Trefz and have been reviewed for accuracy by a district admin who was also present.

FEBRUARY 25, 2020 IASCD DIV III MEETING NOTES

This is my best recollection of Benjamin Kelly's (BK) comments related to the effort in the legislature to dissolve the Commission and the discussion that followed his remarks.

BK informed all that Senator Harris and Representative Gibbs from Legislative District 32 in the SE corner of the state are currently drafting a bill which will dissolve the Commission and that he and IASCD are working with the two legislators to develop a way forward for Conservation Districts after ISWCC ceases to exist.

BK noted that Districts will need to be housed within an entity that has funding authority so that state appropriations can be passed through that entity and distributed to Districts. They (IASCD) inquired into the possibility of moving Districts into the Dept of Ag and were told by Director Gould that Ag has no interest in Districts being housed there because Director Gould isn't interested in providing a home and passing through state appropriations to entities over whom her Department has no oversight authority.

The current proposal (according to Kelly) is for Districts to reside in the Governor's Office and for the Controller's Office to distribute appropriations to Districts. Written into the legislation will be a stipulation that the State shall appropriate \$3,125,000 each year for Conservation Districts. This will provide Districts the security of knowing they will each receive \$62,500 of support from the state every year in perpetuity.

IISWCC's RCRDP program will also be dissolved. Current active loans will be handed off to some other state agency that has a loan program. DEQ and Energy were two agencies BK mentioned as possible recipients of our loan portfolio. No mention was made of how our \$7.2M cash balance would be handled.

This was all presented as a reasonable progression of voluntary resource conservation in Idaho. For example, BK explained that Districts would be executive branch entities, just as IISWCC currently is. He also stated that District reports IISWCC requires in order to maintain accountability for the use of public



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funds will no longer be necessary because Districts already report to LSO's Local Government Registry, so their finances are already out there for all to see.

*BK represented this legislation as something District 32 legislators initiated of their own accord after becoming aware of the legal matter involving Franklin SWCD, and then these legislators approached IASCD for the association's input. BK reported that IASCD's response was, "O.K., if you're dead set on talking about this...". BK reported that IASCD told the legislators they will not throw their support behind this bill until they know that they have District supporting the effort 100%. BK stated that he has a verbal pledge from the legislators that they will not attempt to have their bill acted upon this session. **However, BK added that with this being an election year there could be no guarantee that legislators wouldn't view passage of this legislation as a way to demonstrate to their constituents the great work they're doing to reduce government, and go ahead and rush this bill through before the close of the current session.** [Emphasis added.]*

BK speculated on some details regarding what voluntary natural resource conservation will look like in Idaho without ISWCC. He stated that IASCD will be the entity responsible for reporting on District activities to germane committees in the legislature and suggested that a great deal more presence and involvement throughout each legislative session will be required of Districts. In addition, activities like the Legislative Social IASCD has hosted the last 3 or 4 years will have to be ramped up significantly. He didn't explain why legislators will need to be entertained via events like the legislative social if the legislation contains a stipulation locking in the ongoing annual appropriation of \$3,125,000 to Districts.

Following BK's presentation several Districts had questions. Note that Benjamin's announcement about the legislation was the first any of these District Supervisors or staff had heard of it.

An Ada SWCD Supervisor [and former IASCD executive director] suggested that there were a great many additional details that needed to be considered and resolved before Districts would be able to make an informed decision regarding the advisability of dissolving ISWCC. He expressed concern over the possibility that the bill could get rammed through on "the last day of the session" without Districts being aware of what was being done to them. He also related some history of the partnership, including points when significant tweaks that have had to be made roughly every ten years, including an event in the 90's when IASCD was given authority and funds to hire staff to work on TMDLs, and the determination in 2010 that state funds couldn't be paid out to a non-profit like IASCD that resulted in the loss of about 15 staff and a lot of conservation funding.



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Following the supervisor's comments, BK stated that a big change was in order every 10 years or so, and reminded us that it's been 10 years since the interim committee of 2010.

An Adams SWCD Supervisor stated that she was "having a hard time understanding the problem you're trying to fix, and how you think getting rid of ISWCC is going to fix it."

A Payette SWCD Supervisor, echoed that question about what the problem is that eliminating ISWCC will fix. BK did not identify or explain the problem.

An Ada SWCD employee reported that a legislator attended a recent Ada SWCD Board meeting and asked about the value provided to the District by SWCD. Ada SWCD relayed to the legislator their dissatisfaction with the service provided by ISWCC (it wasn't clear to me who with Ada SWCD did the talking here). Based on the legislator's visit and line of questioning, the employee concluded that some in the legislature have been taking a close look at ISWCC performance.

Weiser River SCD Supervisor and staff, respectively, made comments and asked questions that I don't remember clearly but can summarize as "there are a lot of things about the effort to eliminate ISWCC that raise red flags for me." The employee noted how valuable having ISWCC engineering is to getting projects implemented in their district. In private conversation after the meeting she expressed her suspicion that the impetus for this effort is to punish ISWCC for litigating the situation in Franklin SWCD.

Two Squaw Creek SCD Supervisors echoed comments made by Weiser River SCD relating to red flags raised by the proposed legislation. In private conversation after the meeting one expressed what I'd characterize as disgust for the apparent lack of respect for the current and historical partnership between Districts and ISWCC as well as a lack of understanding or appreciation for ISWCC's other responsibilities.

The Canyon SCD Supervisor & IASCD Division III Director commented that he fully expects there to be significant changes in how the partnership functions.

There was 15 or 20 minutes of discussion on this topic during the meeting and a fair amount of conversation following the meeting. Based on all the comments I heard my overall sense is that Division III Districts are skeptical about need for the proposed legislation and don't fully trust that IASCD is acting in the District's best interests in relation to this legislation.



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IASCD Letter of February 28, 2020

We received a copy of a letter to districts from IASCD President Steve Becker about the possible dissolution of the Commission (Attachment B). The following are my responses and comments for your Board's consideration in crafting a formal response to his letter.

Paragraphs #1 & 2

"Only 1/3 of actual dollars make their way to conservation districts" and "why can't the Commission simply be removed..."

This misleading statement and uninformed question, while technically correct if you consider the Commission's entire budget including dedicated funds (that aren't available to districts), ignores the fact that the Commission is responsible for a number of programs besides district support. Other Commission responsibilities include important programs like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or CREP (water conservation in the Snake Plain Aquifer), Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan writing for Agricultural and Grazing Lands to assist with DEQ's Nonpoint Source water quality efforts, our low interest conservation loan program (RCRDP), and more. If these responsibilities were to be removed, money from our General Fund Appropriation for Personnel and Operating would have to be passed to the receiving agency or agencies.

Attached is a copy of our FY 2020 July Monthly Financial Statement (Attachment C) where the appropriations are tracked by funds and funding categories. At the very top is **General Funds**, followed by dedicated funds which are designated for specific purposes and therefore, not available to districts:

- **Administrative Services** – this fund tracks – not money appropriated - but spending authority for the monies we receive if we provide professional services to other agencies. Examples from past efforts include engineering assistance to the Office of Species Conservation, Post-Harvest Deep Soil Sampling provided to the Department of Environmental Quality, and assisting NRCS with urban conservation outreach in the Treasure Valley.
- **Federal** – tracks Commission compensation by NRCS to staff Farm Bill implementation efforts, and a grant from NFWF that will cease Jul. 1, 2020.
- **Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Loan Program** – low interest conservation loans to producers that are located in conservation district jurisdictions.
- **State Revolving** – one loan for conservation.

None of these are or would be available to districts for their financial assistance. The only category of funds available for re-appropriation to benefit districts is the General Fund.



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Again, those who hold the view that just 1/3 of our funding goes to districts are mistaken. Districts receive more from the Commission than financial support. Roughly 50% of the Commission's Personnel and Operating funds are also spent to provide district support via technical assistance. There are 3 different kinds of support provided (TA, discretionary, and meeting attendance).

Over the last four years, our staff has delivered technical assistance hours on 508 projects and discretionary assists, as well. In FY 2017, in addition to \$ 1,253,200 in Trustee and Benefits funding to districts, our Personnel and Operating funds allowed us to provide 4,591 hours of Technical Assistance at an additional value of \$293,000 to districts. In FY 2018, we provided almost 5,100 hours valued at \$328,000 in addition to \$ 1,253,200 in Trustee and Benefits funding. In FY 2019, we provided 6,162 hours at a value of over \$402,000 in addition to \$ 1,253,200 in Trustee and Benefits funding. So far in FY 2020, we've provided almost 3,200 hours valued at \$222,000 in addition to \$ 1,240,700 (after the 1% rescission) in Trustee and Benefits funding. Further, these numbers don't include the significant number of hours dedicated to last minute discretionary tasks and meeting attendance. (See Attachment D).

Paragraph #3 Background

Steve's background leaves out some relevant information. Besides the Commission's overbearing and paternalistic oversight (which was largely responsible for district frustration with the Commission at the time), one of the chief motivations for the 2009 Interim Committee was to dissolve the Commission and transfer the funding directly to districts. I was told by a former employee of the Governor's Office that part way through the meetings a large number of districts protested and the Commission was saved. In the Division III notes, some comments refer to a 10-year cycle of reform. I don't know what happened 10 years before the Interim Committee, but now almost 10 years after, we are faced with the same playbook being promoted by the same IASCD leadership.

When I was hired, I was told about the motivation for the Interim Committee and was dismayed to see IASCD pressuring Commissioners to sign a Partnership Statement in 2011 at the Annual Conference that required Commissioners to agree in writing that districts are "the primary entity" to work with landowners on voluntary conservation despite our enabling statute's language which states that "districts and the commission are the primary entities" to work with landowners. It also disregarded that many of the districts have no technical staff of their own – they use Commission staff). Districts then as now were not interested in playing politics, most of them just wanted to do the work and get projects on the ground. When asked what they wanted from the Commission, they said "boots on the ground, not in the office".

So shortly after the Partnership Statement conflict, we undertook an effort to define how much time our employees had to provide technical assistance to districts and how much for each program we operate



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to make sure that district expectations were consistent with what we could provide. We began to require districts to request technical assistance in advance so we could demonstrate to districts, IASCD, the Governor, and the legislature that we need more FTPs to do everything expected of the Commission. Unfortunately, no one wanted to fund additional resources. One DFM analyst told me, "The interim committee 'right-sized' the Commission in 2009."

Most recently, when district supervisors asked for a real time way to determine how many hours our staff had spent on individual districts' technical assistance projects, the Board initiated Project Tracker, which tracks performance, hours spent, and also assigns a dollar value to staff time so we can quantify what amount of our Personnel and Operating funds are dedicated to district support.

The relationship between the Commission and IASCD leadership has been rocky for some time, but two years ago a colleague from the Washington State Commission called to warn me that Steve and Kit had told him they were going to get me and every Commissioner fired. When confronted with that information at the 2018 Joint Board meeting in Post Falls, not a member of the IASCD Board questioned to spoke to it.

At the same meeting, the IASCD Board complained that we do not communicate. In fact, Kit Tillotson worked with the Franklin District to pass two separate resolutions calling on the Commission to communicate better and demonstrate transparency. While staff and Commissioners disagreed that the Commission wasn't communicating (our email tracking system said otherwise and we were holding a minimum of two Joint Board meetings a year), we agreed to ramp up our efforts and to look forward, to improve communications.

Last November Steve notified me that his Board no longer wants to hold regular Joint Meetings. He said they prefer to have a liaison from our Board attend their meetings and take information back and forth, so that the meetings wouldn't have to be public. When I asked why he would want to decrease communication when his Board's complaint two years ago was that we weren't communicating, he stated that there never used to be Joint Meetings until I came, it would save us money by not having to drag staff there, and isn't necessary.

Finally, while Governor Otter was in office there was universal knowledge among partners that getting the Legislature and the Governor involved in a spat would be foolhardy for everyone. Recently however, with the Franklin District matter and a new Governor, caution has been abandoned for what may be an equally foolhardy effort to discredit the Commission Board and staff. District 32 legislators' frustration over the lawsuit has become the latest vehicle for IASCD leadership to work again to dissolve the Commission.



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Paragraph #4 Restoring stability and sustainability to districts

Steve's letter states that IASCD has worked hard to make sure districts are "adequately and consistently funded". He doesn't note that the Commission has also worked hard to do the same. He states:

- The Governor has to take the lead and support dissolving the Commission
 - Conservation districts have to provide input, and
 - The entire Commission budget must be reallocated to districts in the amount of \$62,500 each
1. In response, the Franklin blowback and the Governor's own Red Tape Reduction Act are being utilized to push for the dissolution of the Commission. So if anger over the lawsuit doesn't accomplish the desired result, the Governor's desire to cut bureaucracy and streamline government are also cited. The Commission is not only already lean, efficient, and streamlined, but because of Tracker we can demonstrate that. Attached is a copy of our staff hours inventory.
 2. Conservation district input wasn't sought until the Division III meeting in Weiser last week, well after the leadership of IASCD had already conceptualized the potential consolidation of districts into "state entities" and the demise of the Commission. Benjamin's presentation was full of details before IASCD stopped to ask the districts if they want to get rid of the Commission. Several district supervisors asked Benjamin what was the problem IASCD was trying to fix. He didn't respond.

By the time they got around to letting districts know about their plan, the IASCD had already shopped districts around to other agencies and been refused so IASCD had determined that the districts should reside in the Governor's Office where they would become "state entities". Benjamin didn't say if that would mean supervisors would no longer be elected, and districts would no longer be units of local governments. IASCD has also apparently determined that there would be no accountability for districts outside of registering on the Legislative Registry.

3. But the greatest error is that significantly, IASCD has miscalculated the amount available to each district by not understanding Commission funding. Let's take our total appropriation over all funds. See our FY 2020 Appropriations Bill (Attachment E), paying attention to the total funds in each category.

He's mistaken when he proposes that other Commission programs could be passed off to other agencies and doesn't anticipate the funding would have to go with them, leaving districts with less funding out of General Fund Personnel and Operating funds than he anticipates (1/2 of the total of both funds = ~\$737,250).



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Further:

- The Administrative Services fund is not an actual pot of money. It's spending authority of any funds we earn providing professional services to other agencies (-30,000).
- Our federal funding will be discontinued in FY 2021 (-\$290,300).
- The personnel and operating funds for the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development loan program (-\$333,300) would be transferred to the agency that takes the loan servicing over, as would the State Revolving Loan fund.
- The Legislature WILL NOT likely increase that amount of funds from the General Fund or any other fund to districts to bring them back up to what IASCD believes it has worked out as the agreement.
- And finally, his presentation was mysteriously silent on the \$7M cash on hand in the RCRDP fund. Where would that go if existing loans would be passed off to other agencies?

It's fair to say that ½ of General Fund Personnel and Operating Funds (approx. \$624,800 + \$112,450 = \$737,250) is what districts could expect to receive from the cannibalization of the Commission. This amount – a total of ~\$2M, is what would be available for re-appropriation, not \$3,47,100 as was represented by IASCD.

So taking that new number and dividing by 50 would give each district \$40,000, not \$62,500. Is that what IASCD considers "adequately and consistently funded"?

What would districts do with \$40,000 a year? We suspect that even with Steve's \$62,500 per district, they would not be able to hire professional engineers, grant writers, technical staff, pay an admin, and cover operating expenses.

Staff's conclusion is that IASCD contemplates that districts would either go under or would consolidate regionally or statewide.

The Commission actively works to increase district stability and sustainability.

We have a staff of 18.75 FTPs. Of those, 13.75 work in the field (3 out of the Boise office) providing technical assistance directly to districts and landowners. Two of the "technical" FTPs work in the loan program and backfill the administrative FTPs, providing necessary separation of duties for the loan program and the required administrative functions of the agency. Three FTPs work administering the agency (complying with multiple state agency responsibilities including strategic planning, budgeting, fiscal operations, record keeping, and more. See our Organizational Chart (Attachment F).



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We are stretched tight to get everything done and demonstrate that quantifiably year after year by listing the number of hours of technical assistance that districts request, and the number of hours we allocate. Yet, IASCD more than once has refused to support additional staff even to support districts

We asked for an additional field staff person that would have shared the district technical assistance load and worked on TMDL implementation plans. No support. We asked for another FTP to manage a refunded Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) program. No support, in fact, IASCD advocated that DEQ receive the funding because they weren't asking for additional positions. We scaled down our plans for WQPA the next year and asked for ¼ of an FTP to handle the additional fiscal accounting duties for the program. No support.

Since 2012, IASCD has successfully secured an additional \$150,000 in operating funds, and was successful at getting more money for DEQ, but not for districts via WQPA. The Commission, on the other hand, has sought significant funding increases for districts each year.

- In FY 2013 we requested an additional \$174,300 for full 2:1 match; didn't receive
- In FY 2014-2016 we requested \$209,700 in matching (2014), \$60,000 in equal distribution (2015), \$50,000 in equal distribution (\$2016); received \$150,000 over 3 years
- In FY 2017 we requested additional \$200,000 in grant incentives (Steve Becker's district received \$100,000 for a 5-district wildfire mitigation project
- In FY 2018 we requested (at IASCD's recommendation) an additional \$300,000 in wildfire mitigation; didn't receive
- In FY 2019 we requested an additional \$1,000,000 for WQPA reactivation; didn't receive
- In FY 2020 we requested an additional \$280,000 in matching funds for full 2:1; didn't receive

Paragraph #5 Steve's letter talks about streamlining distribution of funding, eliminating requirement to secure local support

Steve proposes replacing district financial support through the Commission with running it through another state agency directly without accountability to that agency, however all state agencies are under strict accountability standards for public funds expenditures. As Director Gould responded when asked to take on the districts and pass through money, it's unlikely any state department would agree to it, particularly DFM or the Governor's Office. The distribution of taxpayer funding to cities and counties is comparing apples to oranges. There is a formula for its distribution, just as there is for the Commission's distribution.



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The intent of the local match distribution is not to irritate IASCD, but to insure that local communities contribute, support, and are part of voluntary conservation efforts. The state should not be expected to fund 100% of activities that also have benefit to local communities.

Paragraph #6 and #7 Match formula too complicated, confusing, remove rules that often cause more confusion than clarity, avoid audits, competing with private business, TMDL work

Match formula: The match formula is not complicated – it resides in an ISWCC spreadsheet. Staff plugs the numbers from district reports in and distribution levels are automatically calculated. District Allocation rule has been in place unchanged since 2012. When updates to the online District Reference Manual (a guidance and instruction document) were reviewed by the Idaho District Employees Association, they claimed they were clear and user-friendly.

Clarity, not confusion: A few new employees and some district supervisors appear to have struggled with this last year, despite emailing with Delwyne, training, and assistance available from IDEA. IASCD leadership has complained but we're not sure they've read the available reference materials on our website. Our staff is available to answer questions any time. IDEA also does training and has experienced admins to help.

Avoid Audits: The letter talks about the prospect of utilizing the Local Government Registry to complete districts' annual reporting requirements. At the end of 2019, 13 of 50 districts have incomplete reports. Apparently oversight and enforcement are not active.

Competing with Private Businesses: Districts currently utilize any available "free" source of engineering (NRCS, the Commission.). As pointed out above, districts could likely not afford to contract with professional engineers even if they consolidated since their hourly charges are significant.

TMDL work could be assigned to districts, other agencies: Working on a TMDL Implementation Plan would mean a minimal additional amount of funding – proportional to the number of hours allocated to each Plan.

Paragraph #8 Where we are now

The partnership is at a critical juncture. IASCD has worked against districts' state partner, coordinating closely with decision makers to engineer a major shakeup to voluntary conservation in Idaho without inquiring of its state partner or districts. We are seriously concerned for the future of the partnership, for locally-led conservation, and for the faithful, dedicated employees we have working in districts around the state.



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The local/state partnership is not a failed model. It is instead a largely unfunded model. Districts need the full 2:1 match in order to operate, but they also need project funding.

Under statute, districts and the Commission are to be the primary entities to work with landowners implementing voluntary conservation for a much broader range of issues than water quality (soil, water, plants, animals, and air). We could be doing so much more, but instead, other agencies are engaged with landowners – many of them in significant partnerships involving a significant amount of funding.

But back to water quality: together districts and the Commission are to implement voluntary agricultural BMPs to meet state water quality goals under the Clean Water Act. The Commission's Water Quality Program for Agriculture was an important vehicle to comply, but hasn't been funded since 2012. Monies are instead funneled to DEQ for the 319 program. See the program's accomplishments from 2000-2012 at: <https://conservation.idaho.gov/Project/FactSheet/12598>. We are not trying to wrest programs and funding from other agencies, we are just trying to hang on to the responsibilities left to us. Rather than trying to cannibalize the Commission's resources, IASCD should be doing the same and working to secure additional funding for projects.

This agenda item seeks to provide sorely needed daylight to this serious threat to locally led conservation and the longstanding partnership. We cannot say with certainty that every IASCD Board member is engaged in this campaign. Staff is encouraging districts to speak with their representatives and write letters to IASCD, and soon. Given the speed with which the Commission budget failed, anything could happen on the Commission's dissolution. Should a bill pass this session, it could be effective on July 1st.

I have prepared a letter that your Board may customize to send in response to Steve's letter. I ask that you give thought to what points you would like to make in a letter and we will capture them for the letter, if desired, to be signed by Chairman Wright.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For consideration and possible action to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a response letter to IASCD's letter of February 28, 2020.

Encl:

- Attachment A Rep. Gibbs Column, Rep. Christensen's Column, Feb. 28, 2020
- Attachment B Letter to Districts from Steve Becker, IASCD President
- Attachment C FY 2020 July Monthly Financial Statement
- Attachment D FY 2020 Staff Hours Table
- Attachment E FY 2020 Appropriations Bill
- Attachment F ISWCC Organizational Chart

https://www.hjnews.com/montpelier/this-week-in-boise/article_2804cf1d-b549-5d0c-8aaf-d3e4b9f97c4c.html

This week in Boise

Attachment A

Marc Gibbs

Feb 28, 2020



This week has been very busy for the Legislature. We are supposed to have the entire House bills ready for the transmittal date, which is Monday, March 2. The transmittal date is the date that all House bills are due on the Senate side and vice versa. It doesn't appear to me that the House will meet the deadline. Wednesday, we started to convene an afternoon floor session to move the bills a little faster. We have had some controversial bills the last couple of days, and they take more time because there is more debate on those bills.

Monday, we debated HB 515. The bill is sponsored by Melaleuca which reforms medical billing. As a general statement, I will say that Doctors don't like it, the Lawyers don't like it, and the insurance companies aren't crazy about it. You might ask then why are we hearing the bill? Our constituents like the bill because it forces the billing to be more prompt. I believe that we have all had a problem with a medical bill. After three hours of debate, the bill passed the house with a vote of 49 ayes and 20 nays. The bill now is on its way across the rotunda where the Senate will debate it. I will predict that the bill will make its way to the Governor's desk, but I haven't heard what Gov. Little thinks about the bill.

We had HB 409 on Tuesday. The bill would freeze property taxes for a year while a committee works on a plan to deal with property tax. The bill exempted schools. I believe that citizens think that their property taxes will be frozen and remain the same next year. There is no assurance that that will be the case. The bill finally made its way to the floor and gave House members a chance to vote for property tax relief. I voted NO because I believe that it was a symbolic vote and will never make it

through the senate. I don't like that kind of politics! I realize that most people have a problem with property taxes and that the system needs to be overhauled. Hopefully this interim committee that is going to be created can come up with a more equitable plan.

35

One of the big problems is that local county and city governments have done a fairly good job of keep our taxes in check in rural Idaho. These large counties and cities that are experiencing rapid growth has had much more rapid increases in their property taxes. Most of these rural counties are now being punished by the tax plans being promoted by Ada and Canyon Counties. I will continue to fight for a system that is fair to our rural counties.

Thursday morning HB 535 was before the house. It was the budget for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. I believe that I have mentioned before the lawsuit between the Soil and Water Commission and the Franklin County Committee. Sen. Harris and I have worked on bringing this legal action to a conclusion. We began working on this in August and have had several meetings with all the parties involved in this legal action. I have never debated against a budget bill in all the time I have served in the Legislature, and I respect the work that the JFAC does on these budgets. I couldn't set back and allow the Soil and Water Commission budget to go forward without pointing out the problem that Franklin County is experiencing. I was not trying to kill the budget. I was surprised at the number of people who supported me in a protest vote on this budget. The vote was 36 ayes 30 nays and the budget narrowly passed. I was pleased with my effort and felt like we had definitely got the Commission's attention. When we returned for the afternoon session, there was a motion to reconsider the vote. When all the votes were counted and the dust settled, the budget failed by a vote of 29 ayes and 37 nays. I'm sure that we have sent a message that we don't like the way the Commission is handling the legal action against the local volunteer committees. I realize the work JFAC will have to do to prepare another budget. They will change the budget a few hundred dollars and send it back to us and I am sure the budget will pass next time. This protest was not about the budget. It was how the differences between the Commission and the county committees were handled. It wasn't handled the Idaho way. The Commission could have driven to Preston and sat down at the table with one another and settled the issue!

It is an honor to serve as your voice in the Legislative process. If I can help you with an issue please feel free to contact me. My cell phone is 208-547-7447 and the email is mgibbs@house.idaho.gov

https://www.hjnews.com/montpelier/chad-christensen-legislative-update/article_cfca0a58-0f10-5b23-bc4b-54c4903de77d.html

Chad Christensen Legislative Update

Chad Christensen

Feb 28, 2020



We are at the end of the 8th week of the 2020 legislative session. We have certainly had some controversial bills with extended debates this week. Sometimes, I wish I had packed a lunch! Ha. Earlier in the week I had been discouraged regarding how some voting had gone. However, I am

happy to see it improved.

Here are some bills that we voted on:

HB 500

This bill does not allow for transgender women (formerly boys or men) to compete in women's sports. There are scientific differences between men and women and there has already been issues across the nation regarding transgender women dominating women's sports. For example, one particular female weightlifter can lift 350 lbs. A male participating in the same sport and lift can lift 800 lbs. This bill protects females. I voted for this bill and it was nearly party lines, with three Republicans voting against it. You can see the votes by going to the Idaho Legislature website, then click 'legislative session,' then click 'bill center,' then click on 'HB500.' This is the same for all bills. This is headed to the senate.

HB 489

This bill does not allow cities to force annexation. There is one exception. If a property owner already uses city services, then they cannot refuse annexation. I voted for this bill. It will now go to the senate. If it passes the senate and then the governor signs it into law, it will replace the current confusing statute. If it becomes law and you don't want to be annexed, do not accept city services. Most Republicans voted for this bill.

HB 535

I think killing this bill is a victory for our district and especially for Franklin County. After I first studied it, I was on board with voting, 'yes.' It had a 10% decrease in funding to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, but it wouldn't affect the districts' appropriations. Originally, I did vote 'yes.' I thought decreasing funds to the commission would help, especially after the commission filed lawsuits against the local Franklin County district and individuals in Franklin County. However, I did not know many have an agenda to get rid of the commission. I am definitely on board with getting rid of the commission and appropriating the funds directly to local districts. Currently, the commission administration eats up 2/3rds of the budget, with only 1/3 going to local districts. This does not fly with me. Also, getting rid of the commission would save taxpayer dollars and put a stop to the bullying of people in our district. Originally the bill passed, and it was on the way to the senate to receive their annual appropriations. I quickly changed my mind and led a charge to get a 'motion of reconsideration' moving forward. I talked many people into changing their votes to 'no.' Then I had more votes than we needed to kill it.

Representative Dorothy Moon made the 'motion to reconsider HB535,' then I seconded the motion. The vote to kill it was 39-30! We did it! Previously, the vote was 37-30 in favor of appropriating. I obviously changed my vote to 'no.' Representative Moon and I high fived each other. It certainly feels good when you can be effective.

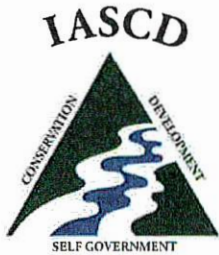
HB 509

This bill was brought forward by Representative Julianne Young "to establish provisions regarding the inclusion of certain vital statistics, including an individual's time of birth, date of birth, biological sex, birth length, and place of birth on the individual's certificate of birth, and to provide methods for the completion or correction of those statistics." The main controversy with this bill was, of course, biological sex. With this bill, one cannot change his/her birth sex on his/her birth certificate or other data, unless there are genuine errors not related to demanding a change because one simply wants to. I voted for this bill and it easily passed the house. Now it is on its way to the senate.

HB 516

This bill was the final piece of Constitutional carry in our state. This bill allows non-residents to Idaho to carry concealed in our state. We will join 13 other states to have complete Constitutional carry, if signed into law. Someone from Wyoming is no less a U.S. citizen than a resident of Idaho. The 2nd Amendment states "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This applies to all citizens. A citizen shouldn't have to ask the government to exercise a right. Opponents to this like to pervert the 2nd Amendment. The 2nd Amendment is broken into two parts and the founder's intention is quite clear in the Federalist Papers. The first part addresses the militia, the second part addresses the right of citizens.

Have a good week, District 32 constituents!



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

55 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 100

Meridian, ID 83642

208-895-8928

WWW.IASCD.ORG

February 28, 2020

This winter the IASCD Board of Directors was approached by legislators concerned of the ramifications of conservation districts not being adequately funded and that, "in their terms" approximately 1/3 of actual dollars makes its way to conservation districts. We were pleased that the message was getting out and that in a year where all statewide budgets (except education) are being cut by 2%, conservation districts requests are being heard. Also, at play in all of this from a legislative standpoint, is the situation between a specific conservation district and the commission over the last two years. As a general backdrop to all this, there is also a significant push over the last year of the Governor and the Legislature to begin looking at state agency rules and efficiencies through the Red Tape Reduction Act.

In the initial discussions from legislators it was asked why the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission couldn't simply be removed and the current allocations through base funding and trustee & benefits be distributed to districts equally to further minimize state government. Our response included a lengthy explanation of the function of Idaho's 50 conservation districts, the function of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and why conservation districts need an adequate base level of funding throughout the state than is currently appropriated by the legislature.

Some of the Background we provided:

Since the economic downturn there has been a need to restore adequate levels of support and funding to Idaho's Conservation Districts. At that time changes were made to the Idaho Soil & Water Commission (ISWCC) to bring the top-heavy agency more in line with efficient practices to serve conservation districts in the state and to get more of the funds allocated directly on the ground. Also, prior to 2008 and 2009, there had been a large amount of historical technical and employee support from both the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) and ISWCC that was diminished as Idaho had to react to the unprecedented economic circumstances.

Since then, conservation districts, and in turn IASCD, has set its priority to restore stability and sustainability to districts to carry out their mission. It has included the need to build minimum capacity and a stable baseline so that districts can provide locally led, voluntary conservation projects to protect Idaho's landowners and natural resources. As we have worked closely with the primary legislators on this issue, they have been responsive and willing to accept our suggestions in an effort to do what is best for conservation districts and not simply serve their own priorities. The IASCD Board has been clear that if there is to be the removal of the commission from the Governor's office, IASCD strongly advises the Governor's lead and support, conservation districts input & the entire reallocation of commission funding directly to districts, distributed evenly at the level of \$62,500. The Governor's Office has been in meetings and is aware of discussions, but staff will not be looking proposals until after the legislature adjourns.

Some possible Modifications to Statute we provided:

District funding is also passed through the state commissions budget to districts. To streamline this process, funding could be distributed directly to districts by the Governor's Office or Department of Financial Management annually. As an example, and though the entirety of funding sources directed to counties is complex, the portion of funding directly to counties from the state is distributed by the Controller though the Tax Commission in the same way. The Controller could cut 50 checks, one time a year. By removing another level of government, districts could be funded at an adequate level, while looking at providing the same or better services to their local communities.

-over-



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Funding Source

Currently the funding source from the state to districts includes a complicated match formula unlike any other we are aware of, that requires agency employees and conservation district staff to spend a large amount of time on compiling reports. Not only is the formula complicated, but the rules attached to the formula have hindered clarity and caused confusion. With the match formula eliminated, a minimum funding level of \$62,500 a year per district would allow those funds to be substantially leveraged at a more efficient rate and promote those dollars to be directly stimulated and regenerated in local communities. This would consist of an annual allocation of \$3,125,000 (ISWCC budget is at \$3,285,200 prior to this year's holdback) set in statute, that would allow the legislature to consistently know what to budget for. It would also provide districts to be adequately and consistently funded.

Oversight:

The impacts of these changes further decrease government in Idaho and remove rules that often cause more confusion than clarity. It will also place conservation districts directly under the governance of current statute, as well as the statutorily mandated processes of annual or biannual audit requirements and annual reporting through the legislatures small governing agency portal. With districts finding a sustainable level, they would have the opportunity to work with local businesses and contractors at the local level. This also benefits state government being in the unenviable position of competing with private business for engineering and technical assistance contracting services. Current ISWCC TMDL work could also be assigned to districts or could be co-opted by other state agencies already set up to do so.

Where We are Now:

We have asked for ample time for conservation districts to digest what is being proposed and to provide input on how any proposal going forward could be made better. Legislators will be drawing up legislative language in bill form, a polished-rough draft of sorts, so that districts can see what changes would be possibly discussed for the 2021 legislative session. We will be discussing these possibilities at our spring and fall division meetings and will send out the legislative language as soon as it has been printed. The timeframe for the language should be in March, but a specific day has not been settled upon.

Sincerely,

Steve Becker, President

SWC DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2019

GENERAL FUND & OTHER FUNDS	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH			
FY20 INDEX	ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/19	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMIN	422,400	29,723	392,677	44,070	12,567	31,503			0				466,470		42,290	424,180
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	5,000	250	4,750	11,280	447	10,833							16,280		697	15,583
7201 FIELD STAFF	464,000	36,140	427,860	93,430	5,627	87,803	7,980	0	7,980				565,410		41,767	523,643
7301 PROGRAMS	202,800	15,838	186,962	47,420	5,545	41,875	5,320	0	5,320				255,540		21,383	234,157
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS			0							1,103,200	425,000	678,200	1,103,200		425,000	678,200
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BLDG										150,000	150,000	0	150,000		150,000	0
7350 CREP	154,600	11,909	142,691	28,680	2,551	26,129	13,300	0	13,300				196,580		14,460	182,120
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,248,800	93,860	1,154,940	224,880	26,737	198,143	26,600	0	26,600	1,253,200	575,000	678,200	2,753,480	0	695,597	2,057,883
		7.52%			11.89%			0.00%			45.88%				25.26%	
7316 FEDERAL GRANT-NRCS CTA	183,200	13,352	169,848	3,921	1,442	2,479							(15,573)	54,210	13,666	24,971
7317 NFWF GRANT	96,000	6,923	89,077										(6,750)		6,923	(13,673)
TOTAL FEDERAL FUND 0348	279,200	20,275	258,925	3,921	1,442	2,479	0	0	0	0	0	0	(22,323)	54,210	20,589	11,298
		7.26%			36.78%										Borrowing Limit -253.78%	(40,000)
																(28,702)
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERV				30,000	0	30,000							25,474	6,075	0	31,549
TOTAL DEDICATED FUND 0450	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,474	6,075	0	31,549
					0.00%										0.00%	
LOAN FUNDS	PERSONNEL			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			CASH				BALANCE SHEET		
FY20	ACTUAL EXPENSE thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			ACTUAL EXPENSE Thru End of Current Month			PLUS TOTAL			ACTUAL CASH BALANCE	LOANS PAID OUT, NOTES RECEIVABLE		
	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BEG CASH AT 7/1/19	REC TO DATE	LESS TOTAL EXP TO DATE	End of Current	NOTES RECEIVABLE 7/1/19	COLLECTIONS /ADJUSTMENTS TO DATE	End of Cur period
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMIN	172,900	12,321	160,579	160,400	23,456	136,944				6,952,643	17,962	137,111	6,833,494	2,729,018	101,334	2,827,509
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-01	172,900	12,321	160,579	160,400	23,456	136,944	0	0	0	6,952,643	17,962	137,111	6,833,494		(2,843)	
		7.13%			14.62%		0					1.97%				
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ				30,000	0	30,000				17,989	42	0	18,031	277,803	0	277,803
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	17,989	42	0	18,031		0	
					0.00%							0.00%		ADV FROM PAYMENTS/ADJ TO DATE	END OF CUR PERIOD	
														231,342	0	231,342

Attachment D

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission FY 2019 Field Staff Hours

STAFF	7101 Admin	7201 District Support			7301 Programs/7350 CREP, etc.				7351 RCRDP	Leave (Hol + Annual Lv)	Ann Lv Accrual Rate (Hr/PayPer)	Total	
		Technical Assistance	Discretionary District Support Time	District, Division, IASCD Meetings	7350 CREP	GWQ	TMDL						7325 Spec. Eng. Services
							Plans and Updates	Assigned TMDLs					
Allan Johnson	168	1,002	423	78					160		249	6.5	2080
Bill Lillibridge	562	1,052	127	90							249	6.5	2080
Brad Shelton	168	564	200	116			832				200	6.5	2080
Brian Reed	168	100	178	142	970		299				223	5.5	2080
Carolyn Firth	292	200	138	106	560	213	322				249	6.5	2080
Chuck Pentzer	252	200	43	94	920		322				249	6.5	2080
Delwyne Trefz	272	60	350	166			1,009				223	5.5	2080
Eileen Rowan	438	841	195	126			231				249	6.5	2080
George Hitz	168	615	209	126			762				200	4.6	2080
Jon Beals	168	511	269	110			822				200	4.6	2080
Loretta Strickland	168	701	208	126			677				200	4.6	2080
Maria Minicucci		50		60									
Rob Sharpknack	168	165	108	158	800		432				249	6.5	2080
2,452		6,061	2,448	1,438	3,250	213	5,978		160	0	2,740		24,960

Attachment E

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-fifth Legislature First Regular Session - 2019

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 213

BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION TO THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020; APPROPRIATING MONEYS TO THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020; LIMITING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS; AND PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING TRUSTEE AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTION.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the following amounts to be expended according to the designated expense classes from the listed funds for the period July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020:

	FOR PERSONNEL COSTS	FOR OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY	FOR TRUSTEE AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS	TOTAL
FROM:					
General					
Fund	\$1,248,800	\$224,900	\$26,600	\$1,253,200	\$2,753,500
Administration and Accounting Services					
Fund		30,000			30,000
Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development					
Fund	172,900	160,400			333,300
Clean Water Revolving Loan (SCC)					
Fund		30,000			30,000
Federal Grant					
Fund	<u>279,200</u>	<u>11,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>290,300</u>
TOTAL	\$1,700,900	\$456,400	\$26,600	\$1,253,200	\$3,437,100

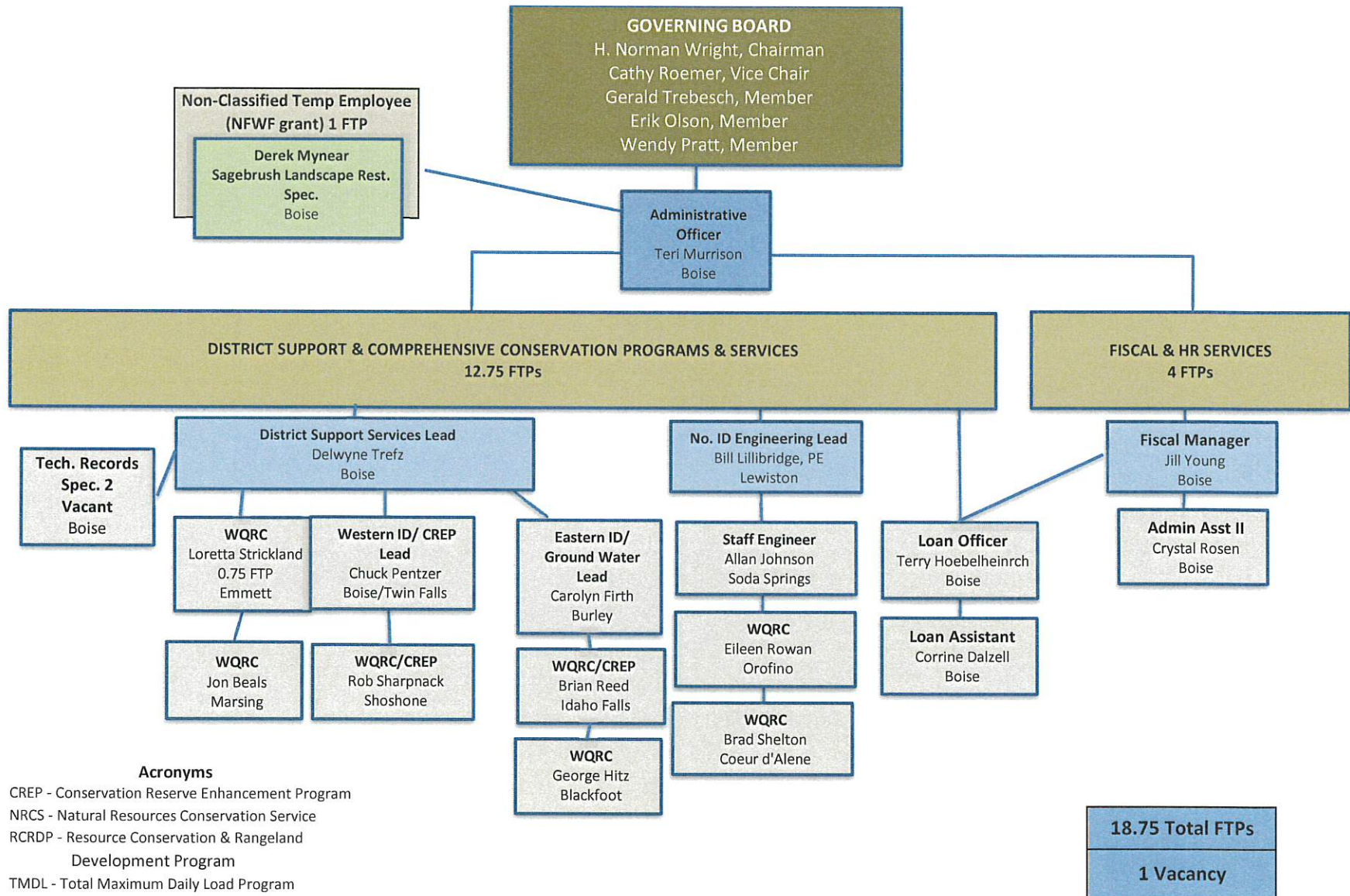
SECTION 2. FTP AUTHORIZATION. In accordance with Section 67-3519, Idaho Code, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission is authorized no more than twenty-one and seventy-five hundredths (21.75) full-time equivalent positions at any point during the period July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, unless specifically authorized by the Governor. The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will be notified promptly of any increased positions so authorized.

SECTION 3. TRUSTEE AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTION. Of the amount appropriated in Section 1 of this act for trustee and benefit payments,

1 \$100,000 shall be distributed equally between the fifty (50) soil and water
2 conservation districts in addition to the amounts authorized under Section
3 22-2727, Idaho Code.

Attachment F

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING CHART OCTOBER 21, 2019



Acronyms

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service
RCRDP - Resource Conservation & Rangeland
Development Program
TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load Program
WQRC - Water Quality Resource Conservationist