

#### **AMENDED** REGULAR MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission January 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MT

Location: Idaho Water Center, 322 E Front St, Suite 560, Conference Room, Boise TELECONFERENCE # 1-877-820-7831 Passcode: 922837 ZOOM Meeting Link Zoom Meeting ID: 919 8520 7378 Zoom Password: 301351

\*In order to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements at the meeting, we ask that any person planning on attending the meeting in person provide forty-eight (48) hour notice to Crystal Rosen at (208) 332-1790. Pursuant to the city of Boise's Public Health Emergency Order 20-10, persons attending the meeting in person are required to wear face covering that completely cover their nose and mouth.

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 (information only)	
* 3.	AGENDA REVIEW (potential action item) 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
NON	-ACTION ITEMS	·

		FY 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule	
		ACTION: For information only.	
ŧ	5.	DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE	Trefz
		• 2 <sup>ND</sup> Quarter Technical Assistance Work Plan Update	
		District Performance Measures Reports	
		New Hire in Division 3	
		ACTION: For information only.	
	6.	ANNUAL CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) REPORT	Pentzer
		ACTION: For information only.	
	7.	RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE	Hoebelheinrich
		ACTION: For information only.	
	8.	<b>REPORTS</b> Commissioners and staff only, no discussion	Commissioners,
		ACTION: For information only.	Staff
	1	ON ITEMS	
*#	9.	MINUTES	Chairman Wright
		1. November 5, 2020	
		2. December 10, 2020	
		ACTION: Approve.	
*#	10.	FINANCIAL REPORTS	Misnick
		1. October 31, 2020	
		2. November 30, 2020	
		ACTION: Approve.	
	POSS	IBLE ACTION ITEMS	
	11.	<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b> Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho	Chairman Wright
		Code Section(s) noted below, any Board action will be taken publicly in open session	
		directly following Executive Session.	
		ACTION: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Codes § 74-206(1)(b) for	
		employee review.	
		Roll Call Vote	
	a.	EMPLOYEE REVIEW	
	u.	The Commission will conduct an employee evaluation.	
		<u>ACTION</u> : For information and possible action outside of Executive Session.	
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	RECC	INVENE AND ADJOURN	
	The C	Commission will reconvene to take any action resulting from Executive Session and to	
	adjou	Irn. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be on February 18, 2021, at 10:00 AM	
	AAT :.	n Boise, Idaho.	

#### MEMO



то:	CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS ROEMER, OLSEN, PRATT, AND TREBESCH
FROM:	TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR
DATE:	JANUARY 4, 2021
RE:	ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

#### Activities

- WQRC Interviews
- Rinker Rock Creek Advisory Board Check In (Exec Committee) meeting with Ranch Manager, Research Director for UI, UC, Davis Professor Mark Rubell to discuss ways to integrate strong stakeholder and public input into Rinker Rock Creek Ranch Research Conceptualization
- Biweekly COVID 19 Agency Leadership Calls (DHR, Governor's Office)
- Idaho Environmental Forum Board meeting, Food Producers' Annual Meeting
- DFM/Governor's Office budget pass-back meeting
- Sitka Reference Check Meeting with Canadian agency developing conservation planner app
- IASCD Legislative Social January 18, Day in Capitol January 19 cancelled, February 16th Ag Summit cancelled
- Attended District Meetings virtually: Bonner, Benewah, Valley, Latah

#### Legislative Presentations

In advance of this year's Legislative Session, we sent requests to Chairs (and Vice Chairs) of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance-Appropriations (JFAC) to meet prior to session to advise them of the multiple items the Commission will bring before them this year. See attached Legislative Briefing packet. The Governor's Office has reviewed the briefing packet and the email requests for briefings.

To date, we have received an email from JFAC Co-Chair Bair asking to meet after the Governor's Budget Recommendation is released on January 11th. I anticipate hearing from Senate Ag Chair Burtenshaw and House Ag Chair Kauffman this week or next to set up those meetings, as well. Commissioner participation in the briefings will be:

House Agricultural Affairs: Norman Wright, Cathy Roemer Senate Agricultural Affairs: Norman Wright, Erik Olsen JFAC: Gerald Trebesch, Wendy Pratt

Our JFAC presentation will take place at 8:00 am MT on January 22nd. The Committee will assemble as usual in the hearing room in the Capitol, however due to COVID-19 access is being restricted significantly. I will deliver my presentation via Zoom, as will undoubtedly will other state agency heads. Commissioners, staff, Districts, and members of the public will be able to attend the hearing virtually at https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/jfac/. I have not yet heard what arrangements for virtual testimony will be for the other two committees but will advise your Board when I hear.

#### Special Meeting with IASCD Subcommittee to Discuss Potential Commission Changes

As noted above, IASCD has cancelled the planned Legislative Social and Day in the Capitol due to COVID-19 concerns. They have not notified us of cancellation of the planned IASCD Board meeting which always precedes those events (typically during the weekend prior). Attached is a copy of an email Benjamin Kelly sent out to Districts asking them to consider five questions and return their input prior to January 10<sup>th</sup> for

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright Chairman

> Cathy Roemer Vice Chairman

> > Erik Olson Secretary

Gerald Trebesch Commissioner

Wendy Pratt Commissioner

Teri Murrison Administrator your joint meeting. Last month I sent an email to members of the Committee thanking them for their time and effort put toward improving the Partnership and mentioning your Board's interest in the proposed joint meeting tentatively scheduled (by IASCD) on January 17<sup>th</sup>. I offered to set up a Zoom meeting with the appropriate public notice and included a copy of the attached table presented to your Board at last month's ISWCC meeting for their review and consideration in coming up with recommendations.

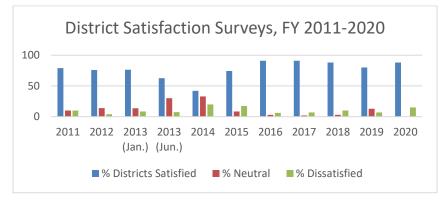
I Zoomed into the Latah Board meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Dave Huggins, Latah Chair and subcommittee member, said that he thinks the 17<sup>th</sup> is still the target date, but isn't sure. I reiterated the Commission's desire to move forward productively with the meeting and a joint effort and asked for a minimum of 24-hours notice so that all Commissioners can participate (due to the public noticing requirements for Commission Board meetings, the gravity of the conversation, two emergency IASCD resolutions put forward at the Post Falls IASCD Annual Conference calling on us to communicate better and be transparent, and the recently expressed lack of confidence in the Commission and IASCD, it's important to conduct these discussions publicly. Idaho Code 74-204(2) requires a 24-hour meeting and agenda notice unless an emergency exists (defined as "a situation involving injury or damage to persons or property, or immediate financial loss, or the likelihood of such injury, damage or loss, when the notice requirements of this section would make such notice impracticable or increase the likelihood or severity of such injury, damage or loss..."

During the Latah Board meeting we discussed a number of strategies for moving past the issues together, among them the Commission hiring a mutually agreeable neutral facilitator to guide any participants interested in an optional "clearing the air" conversation and moving past the conflict. Obviously, a large number of District Supervisors just want to get on to the work of voluntary conservation and I know your Board is of that mind, but there are some who appear to need to have a conversation about what happened between the Commission and the Franklin District and why. This is a topic that your Board may wish to cover with the subcommittee.

#### **District Satisfaction with the Commission**

We recently learned that the failure of our FY 2021 budget to pass is being attributed to "the Legislature sending a strong message that Districts aren't happy with the Commission". This talking point is inconsistent with Performance Measures survey data required to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor annually by the Commission. Between 2011 and 2020, District Boards formally submitted responses that indicate the great majority of Districts are not unhappy with the Commission.

District satisfaction has not fallen below 80% since FY 2015. In FY 2011 and 12, District satisfaction hovered at just under 80%. In FY 2013 and 14 District Satisfaction dropped significantly due to our recalibration of District expectations for technical assistance support. Before most of you were on the Board, during the Interim Committee process of 2009 and the 2010 Legislative Session, the Commission and Districts lost a significant amount of funding and staffing (at one point the Commission had 24 full time employees and 11 contractors (IASCD employees) doing water quality work. After the 2010 Legislative Session, Commission resources were significantly reduced such that it became necessary to assess our capacity to provide technical assistance to Districts. Staff inventoried available field staff hours and began awarding technical assistance time to Districts accordingly. We formed a technical assistance allocation work group (TAWG) to hammer out the process, working closely with IASCD and Districts. The purpose of so doing was not to punish Districts, but to quantifiably demonstrate that the Commission's appropriated staff is insufficient to meet District demand.



District satisfaction dipped initially but improved as they became accustomed to the new process and we adjusted to provide greater flexibility in the process (in FY 2015). As a result, former detractors of the allocation process by FY2016 were on board and appreciative of the process and its requiring Districts to plan ahead. District Satisfaction numbers jumped up almost 17% from FY 2015 to 2016 where they stayed for several years before dropping back to 80% in in the wake of the Commission's litigation to recover public funds. Last fiscal year the District satisfaction level rose again to almost 90%.

District satisfaction levels do not support the generalization that "Districts are unhappy with the Commission". The IASCD Annual meeting vote of 30/1 not to dissolve the Commission also does not support that generalization. It is more accurate to state that there are individual District Supervisors who are unhappy with the Commission though they do not constitute a majority of Supervisors either.

A valid statement is that support is strong to make changes in the way the Commission operates. Your Board and staff have no opposition to making changes that we can now, and to requesting Legislative assistance to change things which are broadly supported by District Boards and informed by a robust outreach process to all Districts.

#### 2009 Interim Committee Changes to the Commission

It is worth remembering during your Board's discussion with the subcommittee that the Legislature convened an Interim Committee in 2009 to study possible changes to the Commission. The below table highlights proposed changes discussed by the Interim Committee vs. actual changes made to our statute in 2010 as a result. No changes have been made to statute since 2011 and only in recent years due to the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Act have changes been made to the Commission's Rule(s).

According to the Co-Chairs, the charge of the Interim Committee was to look at the Partnership - to see if the statute at that time provided what is "necessary for the agricultural community in Idaho to support conservation-type projects." To be examined were the "infrastructure, how to disburse the money and accountability for the money, while at the same time allowing freedom for the conservation districts to act as they know best for their respective areas." The Legislation adopted in 2010 was the result. Interim Committee members were: Sen. Joe Stegner (Co-Chair), Sen. Lee Heinrich, Sen. Bert Brackett, Sen. Kate Kelly, and Rep. Ken Roberts (Co-Chair), Rep. Darrell Bolz, Rep. Judy Boyle, and Rep. Liz Chavez. Of these, only Rep. Boyle is still serving on the House Ag Committee.

Aside from presentations by LSO (<u>statute</u>, <u>budget and appropriation</u>, <u>Allocation Options</u>, <u>Changes Made by Draft</u> <u>Legislation</u>) and Commission staff (<u>July 27</u>, <u>September 23</u>, largely organizational and program info) presentations were also made by:

- IASCD's President Steve Miller (<u>Evaluation of Soil Conservation Commission Structure for Seven States</u>, July 27, Suggested DRSBMO77 Draft Considerations).
- IASCD Executive Director Kent Foster (<u>Conservation Partnership</u>), largely describes IASCD role and capacity.
- <u>Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA)</u>, Karma Bragg, describing IDEA, Partnership, and District employee needs.
- <u>NRCS</u>, Dave Schmidt, largely describes NRCS role and capacity.
- <u>Nez Perce SWCD and Latah SWCD</u>, presenting District info and desired Commission changes, Brian Olmstead, <u>Snake River SCD</u>, Terry Halbert, <u>North Side SWCD</u>, largely describe District Operations.

Meeting Minutes are located at:

- July 27, 2009
- <u>September 23, 2009</u>
- <u>December 10, 2009</u>
- January 5, 2010

I do not plan to review any of the above at your meeting, they are provided for your information only. The following proposed changes were discussed at Interim Committee meetings in 2009, some of which are being raised again in 2021. Your Board may want to consider the list of Proposed Changes documented in the above-linked Interim Committee Minutes and presentations to determine if there are other possible actions that could be reviewed and discussed with the subcommittee.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES FROM 2009 INTERIM COMMITTEE

- Establish non-regulatory "office of soil and water conservation" in the office of the Governor.
- Eliminate reference to political party representation on ISWCC Board.
- Governor to appoint administrator from list of persons recommended by Commission.
- Remove Commission from ISDA.
- Each IASCD Division to elect one representative to Commission Board (to provide accountability to Districts, increase confidence, encourage ownership of the Commission by the supervisors and link supervisors to the state), Governor select an at large representative.
- Change name of Commission to Office of Natural Resource Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, or Office of Idaho Natural Resources.
- Change Commission from Agriculture to Natural Resources agency group.
- Adjust base and match allocation, allow Districts and Commission to work together to set allocations. Develop reporting system from Districts to the Commission that includes conservation accomplishments.
- Grant Districts taxing authority in addition to General Fund appropriations.
- Remove ISWCC as "one of the primary entities that provides assistance to landowners", make Districts the lead entity to plan and implement non-regulatory, incentive-based programs throughout the state.
- Make Commission accountable to Districts by increasing the Commission to seven members. Each Division to supply Governor with two names for appointments (if names unsuitable, Divisions to provide two more names until suitable candidates are chosen). Governor to appoint seventh member at large. Terms of office reduced from five to three years.
- Make health insurance and retirement benefits available to District employees, increase appropriations to base and formula funding to allow Districts to recruit and retain executive-level District staff.
- Eliminate District Supervisor elections, develop different process instead.
- Provide more funding for projects.
- Districts to make budget requests directly to Legislature as separate entity within Legislative Budget Book, allowing questions to be asked of Districts vs. Commission on budget request.
- Eliminate Commission in light of economic climate (at the time), reassign duties to other agencies (the draft legislation presented Dec. 10,2009 is not posted on website)/create a non-regulatory division of Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Resource Conservation giving ISDA lead in management, appoints Board members.
- Commission's Resource Conservation Advisory Board should "serve at the pleasure of Districts".
- Create a regular District "vote of confidence" in ISWCC Board members.
- Eliminate competing Commission programs, funnel all dollars directly through Districts.

#### CHANGES MADE IN STATUTE IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2010

- Commission remains "under" ISDA statutorily but is independent organizationally.
- Changes name to soil <u>and water</u> conservation commission.
- Sets forth range of requirements, including geography, which Governor may consider when appointing members of the commission.
- Districts may submit 3 names for Governor's consideration.
- Makes clear that commission members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- Deletes any reference to the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts.
- Commission appoints the administrator.
- Requires annual report to senate and house agricultural affairs committees on cooperation between Commission and districts.
- Provides financial incentive for consolidation of districts and allows incumbent supervisors of consolidated districts to serve until their terms expire.
- Streamlines audit requirements for local districts consistent with other local entities.

- District supervisors can only be removed through recall procedures applicable to all elected officials.
- Increases maximum amount of annual base allocations to districts to \$8500, limits match allocation to \$50,000 to any one District in a fiscal year. Commission unable to withhold base and eligible match funding from Districts.
- County allocations used to calculate additional funds for districts are based on actual county allocations in prior year (instead of annual prospective letters of commitment.).

The above lists – things those who testified before the Interim Committee wanted but didn't get from the Legislature then and things the Legislature changed in 2010 to make the Partnership function better - are provided for context in your discussion with the subcommittee.

Date & Time	Meeting, Teleconference to be held	Meeting Type*
Feb. 18, 2021, 10-3, MT	Regular meeting, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Video Conf. via Zoom, teleconference
Mar. 18, 2021, 10-3, MT	Regular meeting, Regular meeting, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Video Conf. via Zoom, teleconference
Apr. 15, 2021, 10-3, MT	Regular meeting, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Video Conf. via Zoom, teleconference
May 20, 2021, 10-3, MT	Regular meeting, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Video Conf. via Zoom, teleconference
Jun. 10, 2021, 10-3, MT**	Regular meeting, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Video Conf. via Zoom, teleconference

#### FY 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule

\*While all meetings are scheduled tentatively for video and teleconference, should budgetary rescissions not materialize, regular meetings may again be held in person. In addition, should there be important loan or other Commission business to conduct, the Chairman may call a special meeting via video or teleconference. \*\*By statute, the Board is required to meet on or before June 15<sup>th</sup> to hear District Budget Requests.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** For information only

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- Legislative Briefing packet
- Benjamin Kelly email to Districts
- Mtg Handout w additions to ISWCC Potential Changes Table 12082020

Back to Agenda

	ISWCC Briefing, 2021 Legislative Session			
Issues		Agency Notes/Comments (relevant documents links below)	Supporting Docs	
1	FY 2022 Governor's Recommended Budget	Unavailable until after State of State address, January 2021		
2	Consideration of Reappointment of Commissioner Cathy Roemer	Governor's Office will reappoint or appoint other Commissioner for confirmation, Ms. Roemer filled unexpired term of Glen Gier (Twin Falls), her term expired 7/1/2020		
3	Omnibus Rulemaking - Pending Fee Rule , Dockett No. 60- 0501-2000F,	This rulemaking does not impose a fee or charge, or increase a fee or charge, beyond what was previously approved and codified in the prior rules. Subsection 60.05.01.102.05 states, "The applicant is required to cover all costs incurred for loan closure, title insurance, and recording fees." No changes from Pending Rule proposed in 2020 Legislative Session and no fiscal impacts to the state general fund. Pending Rule published in Administrative Bulletin, November 18, 2020.	Starting on page 2885 <u>https://admi</u> <u>nrules.idaho.</u> <u>gov/bulletin</u> /2020/11SE. pdf	
4	Proposed Changes to Enabling Statute in Title 22, Chapter 27 Soil Conservation District Law subsequent to EO 2019-02, the Red Tape Reduction Act	<ul> <li>Proposed changes:</li> <li>1. Eliminate OnePlan from statute because the program is now defunct.</li> <li>2. Remove "Soil" and "Soil and Water" from the statute referring to Districts and the Commission, standardizing all references instead as "Conservation Districts" and "Conservation Commission". Extensively vetted in multiple public meetings with Conservation Districts, received no comments on proposed changes.</li> </ul>	pages 92-116 https://swc.ida ho.gov/wp- content/upload s/sites/78/2020 /09/2020.10- FINAL-Agenda- and- Handouts.pdf	

ISWCC Briefing, 2021 Legislative Session					
5	Additional Proposed Changes to Enabling Statute to provide for cost-share for BMPs to address water quality pollutants by reactivating WQPA utilizing RCRDP dedicated funding	Proposed to generate more loan program volumne (and interest revenue) and provide Districts with additional source of project implementation funding. Several more possible changes were identified after Item #4 was submitted to the Governor's Office (see the attached draft of Title 22, Chapter 27 - highlighted text on page 7, 20, 21, 23,and 24). The proposed reactivation of WQPA by utilizing \$500,000 a year from the RCDP Loan Program is a return to previous practice and will "prime the pump" on the loan program. ISWCC proposes an ongoing appropriation but with the understanding that we will closely monitor and report to the Legislature Ioan and WQPA performance annually and request removal of cost share from the RCRDP fund should it fail to have the desired effects. Attached is a copy of the Chronolgy of the RCRDP fund prepared by Ray Houston, FYI. It details changes to the fund over time and demonstrates past cost- share intent. This has been extensively vetted in conversations and public meetings with Conservation Districts where it has met with largescale approval with the caveat that we monitor the impact to the dedicated fund closely. A rule was previously promulgated for WQPA and can be immediately activated by the Governor as a Pending Rule to begin operating the program July 1, 2021, however we would simultaneously initiate negotiated rulemaking to simplify and streamline the program.			
6	Preliminary Options for Changes in District Support	As an outgrowth of District concerns about ISWCC's litigation with the Franklin District, ISWCC surveyed Districts to know what changes in our services could avoid future such circumstances and other changes they desire, as well. There are two categories of changes they brought up: things we can do internally (many of which we've already done), and things the Legislature must do. The Legislative actions should not be rushed should be fleshed out over the next 6 months with Districts and proposed in the 2022 Session. This delay will allow due diligence and build widespread support for the ultimate solution. ISWCC Changes Summarized: consider activating non-voting advisory board provided for in statute; more Commissioner/headquarters interaction with individual districts; field staff attend monthly meetings (quarterly now); district support staff increase training, outreach, education activities; educate partners on roles and responsibilities; increase legislative and Governor's Office outreach; work productively with IASCD for District benefit; listen more, speak less in Division meetings; feature Districts more rather than general voluntary conservation projects or Commission accomplishments; purchase technology to enable staff to participate in meetings remotely; go through reports required from Districts and streamline what we can; don't mandate Districts do things	https://swc.i daho.gov/w p- content/upl oads/sites/7 8/2020/12/2 020.12.10- FINAL- Agenda- Handout.pdf		

ISWCC Briefing, 2021 Legislative Session			
	Legislative Changes: change statute to permit RCRDP Program to offer cost-share funding to Districts under the WQPA (can be done in 2021 Session by adding attached language to Statute revisions); change Districts' Trustee and Benefit Funding in 2022 session to make it "fair to all Districts" (opinions vary widely - eliminate local match, keep local match, keep local match and increase T&B funding to full 2:1 state to local match, develop tiered funding distribution by activity of Districts, leave it alone, etc.); determine further strategies to increase project funding (secure GF contribution to match or partially match \$500k dedicated funds; provide grants and other incentive (tax, for example); increase Commission technical assistance hours provided by field staff to Districts by adding 3 positions to compensate for 6,700 hours of ISWCC staff time that is required to go to other agency missions (DEQ, FSA); streamline loan program bureaucracy by reviewing and revising loan program rule		

From: Benjamin Kelly <benjamin@amgidaho.com> Subject: RE: Reminder - Subcommittee suggestions Date: December 31, 2020 at 11:35:49 AM MST

Good morning,

In considering Districts input on helpful improvements or changes to the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, here are a few avenues to be considering that may be helpful with more specific ideas.

How can the commission:

- reinforce the role of conservation districts to lead voluntary conservation efforts that promotes strong local leadership within each district?
- assist districts with infrastructure development, whether it be coordinated conservation planning efforts down to the basic level of the development of administrative policies and procedures?
- represent districts and the natural resource work you do with a priority of promoting the district?
- close the gap on the disparity concerning commission resources, such as technical assistance (TA) or other expertise, and how it is received by various Districts?
- support conservation district efforts to provide conservation education opportunities to other agencies?

These are only a few areas to continue to consider and the subcommittee is interested in any other considerations you as a individual supervisor or a district may have.

# **Benjamin Kelly**

**From:** Benjamin Kelly **Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 11:39 AM **SepSubject:** Reminder - Subcommittee suggestions

Thank you for continuing to send your suggestions and if you have not yet been able to - **Please send your suggestions by\_** <u>January 10, 2021!</u> The Subcommittee wants to be sure they have a chance to hear from Districts with suggestions and the January deadline will give them time to review and discuss. The suggestions do not have to be from your Conservation District only or be sent in a official capacity. The Subcommittee is willing to review any and all input and will be accepting individual comments as well.

As discussed at the annual business meeting, the Subcommittee is asking for Districts input on helpful improvements or changes to the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission. The Subcommittee will be looking to meet to compile and discuss suggestions with ISWCC this January in Boise.

# **Benjamin Kelly**

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts 55 SW 5th Ave, Suite 100 Meridian, Idaho 83642 (208) 895-8928 benjamin@amgidaho.com

District Desired Changes	Identified Potential Action(s)	Responsible	Comments
	POTENTIAL CHANGE	S THAT DON'T	REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Include more District perspectives in decision making	Establish nonvoting Advisory Board	ISWCC Board, Boise	Include NRCS State Conservationist, representative of UI CALS, one or more District representative, and a nonprofit/stakeholder representative. Already in statute, item on 12/10 Board meeting to discuss
Rebuild trust in Board/Boise, interact more	Establish strong, ongoing relationships with District Chairs (min 2x/yr)	ISWCC Board	Chair, Board members began contacting (in mid Nov.) all District Chairs to discuss Change Survey responses and identify further changes desired, in person by division when COVID/budget allows
	Attend more District meetings to observe and listen	Board, Boise staff	Zoom now, in person when COVID/budget allows
Work closely with Districts @ staff level	ISWCC attend all monthly District meetings	Field staff	Hours to come from discretionary allocations to field staff, not Technical Assistance Allowcation Awards (Zoom now, in person when COVID/budget allows)
	Rehire vacant TRS2 district support position to respond to District req, develop webinar orientation for new supervisors and admins, increase training, update online resources, outreach and education on roles/responsibilities, requirements	TRS2, Boise staff	Website enhanced 10/20, will add in person training COVID/staffing/budget permitting, webinar orientation to be completed by 6/21, In person/online outreach to assist Districts with more training, providing information and documentation of District required planning, reporting, technical assistance, and funding requests.
Build strong relationship with IASCD, other Partners	Promote better understanding of Partner roles and responsibilities	Board, Boise staff	Clarified information on the roles of local, state, and federal partners, nonprofit advocacy groups (Done 10/2020), will continue work on this
	Work more closely to determine Legislative education and outreach strategies and outcomes.	Board, Administrator, IASCD	In past, this has been a shared goal of ISWCC and IASCD.

District Desired Changes	Identified Potential Action(s)	Responsible	Comments
	Increase interactions with Governor and Legislature to build awareness of Partnership	Board, Administrator	In process
Communicate with Districts more effectively	Continue monthly staff updates to Districts	Boise/field staff	Current practice
	Shorten reports at IASCD Division meetings when possible, utilize graphic presentations more, avoid lengthy memos whenever possible	Boise staff	In process
	Reevaluate District reporting requirements necessary to comply with intent of Legislature, Statute, and Rule	Boise staff	In process
Flexibility in Technical Assistance Allocations	Facilitate transfer of TA from project to project	Boise staff, Board	Process has been simplified by providing discretionary hours to field staff for unanticipated projects and for TA Award change process to transfer hours to another project: District requests (requires Board action) transfer to another project, email Commission the request, and if resources are available, the transfer of hours to another project can be made within a day or two (Done. ~2015)
Increase Outreach on Behalf of Districts More, Advocate	Feature individual Districts and projects in newsletter in addition to regular project-focused content (in progress)	Administrator, contractor	Initiated 12/2020
	Additional Dist	rict Input on ISWC	CC Changes, December 2020

District Desired Changes	Identified Potential Action(s)	Responsible		Comments
with preparing them, verify usef simplify and/or combine them, o	ock, Snake River, Twin Falls): simplify repo ulness of reports submitted, determine wl lon't act as "compliance officer" for Distric oner Roemer's attendance at the meeting	hat reports are rec cts. Project a "how	quired by law, can we help you	Listed above to evaluate District reporting requirements necessary to comply with intent of Legislature, Statute, and Rule
above for staff to attend all of th to share what other Districts are memos from the Commission - p requirements (5 year Plan) they	ke mandatory directives from Commission leir meetings not only to be more familiar doing so they can adopt other ideas. They prefer concise informative handouts. One p said while it's sometimes a burden to do s their plans, goals, and accomplishments.	with what they ar y don't like long re page. Re District re	e doing, but also ports and porting	Listed above to have field staff attend monthly District meetings when possible. Also addressed above.
District sees nothing cumbersom (including match reporting). The happy to do so. I would also me for other reasons (Commissione that the priorities in our Annual priorities for their program that good feel for our local landowne	In license to allow ISWCC employees to att be or difficult in completing the reports cu Board feels it is important to have a repor ntion that we use the Annual and 5 Year P rs, Legislators, General Public, and Grant V and 5 Year Plan matched up perfectly wit were identified this fall. This is not by acci rs' needs. We believe Districts should take next year. Our office would continue to p	Purchased additional Zoom license per suggestion.		

# POTENTIAL CHANGES REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Funding for project	Utilize \$500,000/year of Resource	Administrator/	This would provide cost share for project implementation through Districts, focus
implementation	Conservation and Rangeland	Board/Districts	loan program marketing on conservation-minded borrowers to increase
	Development Program dedicated	and Legislature,	conservation loans from fund. Minor changes to Statute are already drafted,
	funding to reactivate Water Quality	Governor	previous Rules can be adopted and made temporary by Governor's Office through
	Program for Agriculture		2022 Legislative Session, engage in Negotiated Rulemaking (4/2021-10/21) to
			simplify and streamline them in 2022 Legislative session.

District Desired Changes	Identified Potential Action(s)	Responsible	Comments
	Change Trustee and Benefit funding statute	Legislature, Governor	
	Seek a full 2:1 state match to local matching funds		Regardless of vehicle to change, initiate robust and fully representative outreach to eliminate (or keep as revised) local match formula and determne majority District support before making Legislative changes to District funding (1/2021-6/2021,
	Eliminate match funding and replace with equal distribution, tiered distribution, or other		propose agency legislation in 2022 session to accomplish)
	additional strategies including: seek	Board, staff, Legislature, Governor	In process, develop further recommendations for 2022 Legislative Session
Increase District capacity through providing more ISWCC technical assistance	C C	<b>.</b> .	ISWCC's field staff numbers are not sufficient to serve District needs. About 1/2 of all field staff hours are dedicated to working in CREP, Ground Water, and TMDL programs. To dedicate 100% of all currently appropriated positions would take an additional 6,729 staff hours annually. Need to determine support before proceeding
Reduce loan program bureaucracy		Staff, Board, Districts, Legislature, Governor	Could begin outreach in 1/2021-6/2021) initiate Rule change if feasible in 2022 session to accomplish

#### ΜΕΜΟ



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright Chairman

> Cathy Roemer Vice Chairman

> > Erik Olson Secretary

Gerald Trebesch Commissioner

Wendy Pratt Commissioner

Teri Murrison Administrator

TO:	CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS ROEMER, OLSON, PRATT,
	AND TREBESCH
FROM:	DELWYNE TREFZ, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
DATE:	JANUARY 7, 2021
RE:	DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Technical Assistance Work Plan Update

Although necessary efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic in Idaho continue to cause major challenges for implementation of many District projects, our staff are doing an admirable job working with their Districts to provide as much of the allocated technical assistance as possible. The attached "FY 2021 Cumulative Hours of Technical Assistance Provided (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr." spreadsheet shows the number of technical assistance hours requested, allocated and provided to each of the District projects our staff are assisting with this year.

A significant additional challenge is related to the loss of the staff engineer responsible for providing engineering services for the entire south end of the state. Bill Lillibridge, our lead and currently only engineer, is working closely with all Districts to whom we have committed engineering services while we prepare to fill the S Idaho engineer position.

#### **District Performance Reports Update**

As of this writing, I have received District Performance Reports from 47 of the 50 Districts. Staff are in communication with the remaining 3 Districts and expect to receive their reports soon. Under our current policy, an annual District Performance Report must be received by the Commission prior to allocation of base and match funds to Districts.

#### New Water Quality Resource Conservationist (WQRC) Hired

I'm excited to introduce you to Joe Peterson, who has been hired to fill the WQRC position vacated by Jon Beals last summer. Joe was selected from a pool of 44 excellent applicants for the position and began work Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Joe is an Emmett native who graduated from BSU last May with a Bachelor's degree in Biology/Environmental Studies and has conservation-related work experience with the US Geological Survey and the US Bureau of Reclamation. Welcome, Joe!

#### **RECOMMENTED ACTION:** For information only

#### ATTACHMENT:

• FY2021 Cumulative Hours of Technical Assistance Provided (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.)

#### Back to Agenda

Fiscal		Lead	Assistance	Person	Hours	Hours	Hours	\$ Value of Technical Assistance	
Year	Project Name	Implementer	Туре	Requested	Requested	Allocated	Provided	Provided	Notes
	Bear Lake Diversions and Streambank Stabilization (Bear			Allan					10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 9/24/2020 - Completed 2 draft
2021	Lake CD) Bear Lake Nutrient Reduction Project	ISWCC	E	Johnson Allan	120	120	52		designs and met with producers to review 10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - two landowners
2021	(Bear Lake CD)	ISWCC	E	Johnson	175	175	6	\$452	meetings/site evaluations
2021	Blackfoot River 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	245	245	132	\$9,933	10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 2 site evaluations, 2 surveys, 2 draft designs, 7 construction inspections, 4 landowner meetings
2021	Cottonwood Off- Stream Watering (Oneida CD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	150	150	76	\$5,719	10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 9/26/2020 - 3 construction inspections, 1 new draft design, 1 design review
2021	Girls Camp (Franklin SCD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	26	0	12		10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - Steven Smith notified me that the landowner has decided to sell the property and is no longer interested in going forward with the project.
2021	Middle Bear River 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	85	85	25	\$1,881	10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 9/24/2020 - Performed 4 construction inspections, completed 1 additional design, and met with 2 producers
2021	Neher Park Project (Wood River SCD)	Wood River Conservation District (Wood River CD)	E	Allan Johnson	40	40	18		10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - 1 site evaluation, 1 preliminary design review. The drafting is being completed by NS Consulting.
2021	South Caribou 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	85	0	0		10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - 2 landowner meetings/site evaluations in FY 2002. This project is on hold until other Caribou SCD projects are completed this fall.
2021	Tonks Canal Diversion Engineering Design Headgate, Construction Oversight (Teton CD)	ISWCC	Е	Allan Johnson	0	0	14	¢1 054	10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 6/26/2020 - site evaluation of rock weir after high spring runoff and plan to repair.

Fiscal		Lead	Assistance	Person	Hours	Hours	Hours	\$ Value of Technical Assistance	
Year	Project Name	Implementer	Туре	Requested	Requested	Allocated	Provided	Provided	Notes
2021	USBR Cub River Irrigation Efficiencies Improvement Project (Franklin CD)	ISWCC	E	Allan Johnson	114	114	0		10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - The USBR Maple Creek project has priority over this one. Work on this project will commence once the Maple Creek project is complete.
2021	USBR Maple Creek Irrigation Efficiency Improvement (Franklin CD)	Franklin Conservation District (Franklin CD)	E	Allan Johnson	168	168	77	\$5,794	10/2020 Update: Allan Johnson - 10/6/2020 - Draft design done. Waiting on USBR to complete NEPA process before project can be implemented.
2021	Bonner Engineering Support (Bonner CD)	ISWCC	E	Bill Lillibridge	24	24	102		10/2020 Update: Bioengineering streambank stabilization installation oversite. Emergency permitting and repair of riprap streambank section. 01/2021 Update: Bank protection design and permit for Pend OReille River.
2021	District Liaison Planning, Meetings and Tours (Kootenai- Shoshone CD)	ISWCC	E	Bill Lillibridge	8	8	0		10/2020 Update: Planning tasks, meetings, and tours. No activity to date. 01/2021 Update: Meetings accomplished during other project work.
2021	Engineering Assistance (Clearwater, Lewis, Idaho CD)	ISWCC	E	Bill Lillibridge	600	500	196		10/2020 Update: Two engineering designs with 404 permit applications. 01/2020 Update: Construction oversite of two designed/permitted projects. Re-design and permitting for one project.
2021	Galloway Dam Spillway Restoration, Monroe Creek (Weiser River CD)	Weiser River Conservation District (Weiser River CD)	E	Bill Lillibridge	46	46	154	\$11,589	10/2020 Update: 2 engineering designs, 2 404 permit applications, 5 site evaluations. 01/2021 Update: 3 total engineering designs, 3 404 permit applications. Construction oversite on two projects. Hours over allocation covered by discretionary engineering hours pool.
2021	Lower Payette River 319, Phase 5, Grant Implementation(Gem CD)	ISWCC	Е	Bill Lillibridge	80	80	9		10/2020 Update: Combined Gem and Squaw Creek CD's requests. One construction inspection completed. 01/2020 Update: No additional work since last update.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
Tear	-	implementer	Type	nequesteu	Requested	Allocated	Tionaca	TTOVIACU	Notes
	North Fork CDA River 319 Grant Assistance								10/2020 Update: Project scoping and design. No work to date
	(Kootenai-Shoshone			Bill					01/2021 Update: site evaluation of site above Little North Fork
	CD)	ISWCC	Е	Lillibridge	80	80	3		Bridge.
	North Fork Payette								10/2020 Update: Engineering design and cost estimate for grant
	River 319 Grant Implementation			Bill					application.
	(Valley CD)	ISWCC	Е	Lillibridge	150	150	41		01/2021 Update: Board meeting to discuss grant application and project work goals.
	(10.0) 00							+ = ) = = =	
	Project Development								10/2020 Update: No specific project detailed. Discretionary
2021	& Implementation	ISMOS	F	Bill	60	0	0	ćo	Technical Assistance hours available upon request. No requests to
2021	(Payette CD)	ISWCC	E	Lillibridge	60	0	0	ŞU	date
	St. Joe River								
	Streambank								10/2020 Update: Two site evaluations. Design and permit
	Stabilization and								applications to be undertaken this fall.
	Vegetation 319 Grant, Resource Inventory			Bill					01/2021 Update: Three designs and 404 permit applications completed. Packets given to landowners for permitting; possible
	(Benewah CD)	ISWCC	Е	Lillibridge	80	80	23		implementation at a later date.
									10/2020 Update: Assist with Reach #3 project installation. Consult
		Kootenai							with landowner on bank stabilization feasibility and options.
	Wolf Lodge Creek	Shoshone							01/2021 Update: Assisted District with contract process, billing
	Watershed/Coeur	Conservation							overview/comment, and change order requests. Provided
	d'Alene Sub-basin	District							construction oversite and troubleshooting. Assisted with contractor
2021	(Kootenai-Shoshone CD)	(Kootenai Shoshono CD)	Е	Bill	30	30	106		and design firm communications. Overage hours absorbed into
2021		Shoshone CD)	C.	Lillibridge	30	30	106	\$1,977	discretionary TA pool.
		Bonner							
		Conservation							
2024	Bonner Water Festival	District		Brad	20	20			10/2020 Update: project takes place later in year
2021	(Bonner CD)	(Bonner CD)	Ed/Outrch	Shelton	20	20	0	Ş0	01/2021 Update: project takes place later in year

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Coeur d'Alene Riverbank Protection & Revegetation, Road Protection (Kootani- Shoshone CD)	Kootenai Shoshone Conservation District (Kootenai Shoshone CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	21	40	35		01/2021 Update: Assisted distirct with road department meetings and 2 field vists.
2021	Connifer Seedlings - Sort and Deliver (Benewah CD)	Benewah Conservation District (Benewah CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	10	20	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: Work will begin spring of 2021
2021	District Liaison (Benewah CD)	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)	ТА	Brad Shelton	15	20	15		10/2020 Update: attended 3 board meeting and gave a report on accomplishments and a Commission update 01/2021 Update: attended 2 board meeting and gave a report on accomplishments and a Commission update
2021	District Liaison (Bonner CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brad Shelton	20				10/2020 Update: Attended 3 board meetings and gave regular updates on Commission activities 01/2021 Update: Attended 1 board meetings and gave regular updates on Commission activities
2021	District Liaison Planning, Meetings and Tours (Kootenai- Shoshone CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	45	100	80		10/2020 Update: completed 5 I landowner site visits, attended 4 board meetings, assisted with district planning activities 01/2021 Update: Completed 4 landowner site visits and project scoping. attended 1 board meeting, and assisted with district planning activities.
2021	Grant Writing Assistance (Bonner CD)	Bonner Conservation District (Bonner CD)	СВ	Brad Shelton	40	20	20		10/2020 Update: Assisted with grant writing for Sunnyside Rd. 319 01/2021 Update: Assisted with grant reporting

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	ldaho State Forestry Contest (Bonner CD)	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)	Ed/Outrch	Brad Shelton	10	10	0		10/2020 Update: Event takes place in March 2021 01/2021 Update: Event takes place in March 2021
2021	Mica Creek Streambank Protection & Revegetation (Kootenai-Shoshone CD)	Kootenai Shoshone Conservation District (Kootenai Shoshone CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	20	25	20	\$1,297	1/2021 Update: Assisted with 3 landowner site visits and project meetings
2021	Natural Resource Inventory (Bonner CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	40	80	50		10/2020 Update: Assisted with identifying resource concern in the Priest River and Pend Orellie River Drainages and met with 5 landowners. 01/2021 Update: Identified resource concerns in Hoodoo watershead
2021	Natural Resource Inventory (Boundary CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	50	50	36		10/2020 Update: Assisted with identify resource concerns for potential projects in the Moyie River Drainage 01/2021 Update: Resource inventory will resume in spring
2021	North Fork CDA River 319 Grant Assistance (Kootenai-Shoshone CD) Outreach for District	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	21	40	35		10/2020 Update: Assisted district with road department meetings and 2 site visit meetings
2021	Activities (Boundary	ISWCC	Ed/Outrch	Brad Shelton	25	25	0		10/2020 Update: no hours to date 01/2021 Update: no hours to date
2021	Project Development & Grant Proposal (Boundary CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	30	30	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours to date

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
	Project Development and Grant Application (Bonner CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	40	80	40	\$2,594	10/2020 Update: no hours provided to date 01/2021 Update: Assited with grant presentation and preperation
2021	Seedling Program (Bonner CD) Seedling Program	Bonner Conservation District (Bonner CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	10	20	0	\$0	1/2021 Update: no hours provided to date Seedling delivery occurs in April
2021	Sorting & Delivery (Kootenai-Shoshone CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	16	20	0		10/2020 Update: no hours provided to date 01/2021 Update: no hours provided to date sorting begins in April.
2021	St. Joe R. Streambank Stabilization and Re- vegetation 319 (Benewah CD)	Benewah Conservation District (Benewah CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	96	150	80		10/2020 Update: Completed 7 landowner site visits, wrote 1 grant application, assisted with DEQ tour 01/2021 Update: Completed 2 site visits and grant presentation preparation
	St. Joe River Streambank Stabilization and Vegetation 319 Grant, Resource Inventory (Benewah CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Brad Shelton	20	20	20		10/2020 Update: Provided assistance with grant reporting and tours 01/2021 Update: Project complete
2021	Wolf Lodge Creek Watershed/Coeur d'Alene Sub-basin (Kootenai-Shoshone CD)	Kootenai Shoshone Conservation District (Kootenai Shoshone CD)	ТА	Brad Shelton	40	80	80		10/2020 Update: Assist with Reach 3 project planning, bid documents and project installation. 10/2020 Update: completed 5 site visits and partner meetings. 01/2021 Update: Assisted district with contract items and reporting. reviewed billing information and contractor contacts. assisted with construction inpections.
	District Liaison Meeting Attendance (West Side CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	6	6	1		10/2020 Update: Attended additional Board meetings per Board request.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	District Liaison Meeting Attendance (East Side CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	6	6	1	\$65	10/2020 Update: Attended additional Board meetings per Board request.
2021	District Liaison Meeting Attendance (Jefferson CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	16	16	8		10/2020 Update: Attended additional District meetings as requested by the Board, and provided misc. support.
2021	District Liaison Meeting Attendance and Misc. Support (Clark CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	32	32	8		10/2020 Update: Attended additional District Board meetings, workshops and tours and provided other misc. support as requested.
2021	District Liaison Meeting Attendance and Misc. Support (Teton CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	35	35	17		10/2020 Update: Attended additional District Board meetings, Workshops & Tours, consult on grant applications & reviewed reports and provided other misc. assistance as requested.
2021	District Liaison Meeting Attendance and Tours (Madison CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Brian Reed	27	27	17	\$1,102	10/2020 Update: Attended additional District Board meetings, workshops, and tours, and provided misc. assistance per Board request.
2021	Assist New NACD Planner with Soil Health Project (Minidoka CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	5	5	5		10/2020 Update: worked with NACD planner training her to soil sample
2021	Decommission Abandoned Wells (Minidoka CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	30	30	3		10/2020 Update: work to take place next quarter 12/2020 Update: I am in the process of finding partners for this projects through consultation with individuals from various agencies and attending ground water meetings.
2021	Outreach (Minidoka CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	5	5	1		10/2020 Update: Urban landowner awareness project: assist with production of commercial for TV and social networks. Worked UI Extension Agent to publicize on social media 1/2021 Update: No requests for assistance with this project during the last quarter.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Project Development and Education (South Bingham CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Carolyn Firth	50	50	0		10/2020 Update: Because of the COVID19 Pandemic, opportunities for outreach and education have been quite limited. In addition, farmers are busy with harvest. I anticipate being able to focus on this project in the late fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. 1/2021 Update; No requests for assistance with specific tasks have been received to date.
	Soil Health Sampling (Minidoka CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	30	30	30	\$1,945	10/2020 Update: Need assistance to continue this 5-year project by coordinating with other districts, training and collaborating with sampling crews, scheduling and collecting soil samples. 10/2020 Update: retrieved fabric, uploaded photos to UI, and uploaded data sheets. 12/2020 Update: filled out producer surveys; emailed photos to producers and district personnel; notified producers of planned online workshop.
2021	Soil Health Sampling (West Cassia CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	40	40	38		10/2020 Update: Request assistance to continue project by coordinating with other districts, training and collaborating with sampling crews and producers, and scheduling and collecting soil samples. Will also include reviewing soil test results with producers as part of the education component of the project. 10/2020 Update: retrieved fabric, uploaded photos to UI, and uploaded data sheets. 12/2020 Update: filled out producer field surveys; emailed pictures to producers and district personnel; notified producers about upcoming workshop.
	Soil Health Sampling Project (East Cassia CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Carolyn Firth	40	40	37		10/2020 Update: Coordinate with other districts; train and collaborate with sampling crew; schedule sampling and collect soil samples. Retrieved fabric, uploaded photos to UI, and uploaded data sheets. 12/2020 Update: filled out producer surveys and emailed them to UI; emailed pictures to producers and district personnel; notified producers of upcoming workshop.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
	District Liaison (North			Chuck					10/2020 Update: Reviewed Match info, Gathered information with 3 operators and gathered soils information for upcoming soil collections. Due to COVID-19, hours have been limited. 12/15/20 Gathered, reviewed, edited 5 year review report. Updated, CREP, TMDL, and recharge information pertaining to
2021	Side CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Pentzer	20	20	18		Jerome Co. & N/S CD.
2021	Soil Health Sampling (Balanced Rock CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Chuck Pentzer	32	32	4		10/2020 Update: District Map Updated. Due to COVID-19, hours have been limited. 1/2021 Update: Updated District Map & assistance with NRCS & U of I
2021	Soil Health Sampling (Snake River CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Chuck Pentzer	32	32	4		10/2020 Update: District Map Updated. Due to COVID-19, hours have been limited. 1/2021 Update: Updated District Map & assistance with NRCS & U of I
2021	Soil Health Sampling (Twin Falls CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Chuck Pentzer	32	32	4		10/2020 Update: District Map Updated. Due to COVID-19, hours have been limited. 1/2021 Update: Updated District Map & assistance with NRCS & U of I.
2021	Atlanta Fire Suppression (Elmore CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Delwyne Trefz	50	50	0		10/2020 Update: Position vacated 7/2020, recruiting for new hire. 1/2021 Update: New hire (Joe Peterson) will provide allocated TA.
2021	Capacity Building - 5	Canyon Conservation District (Canyon CD)	СВ	Delwyne Trefz	20	20	0		10/2020 Update: position vacated 7/2020, recruiting to fill 1/2021 Update: New hire Joe Peterson will provide this assistance during the remainder of FY2021.
2021	District Liaison (Elmore CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Delwyne Trefz	24	24	4		10/2020 Update: Position vacated 7/2020, recruiting for new hire. 1/2021 Update: Delwyne participated in 2 District meetings. New hire Joe Peterson takes over as District liaison 1/4/2021.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Education, Tours, Demonstrations & Soil Health Classes (Owyhee CD)	ISWCC	Ed/Outrch	Delwyne Trefz	75	75	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: Position vacated 7/2020, recruiting to fill 1/2021 Update: District has not conducted any educational events due to COVID. New hire Joe Peterson will provide this assistance, if needed, during the remainder of FY221.
2021	Public Outreach Farmers Co-Op Canal (Canyon CD)	Canyon Conservation District (Canyon CD)	Ed/Outrch	Delwyne Trefz	50	50	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: Collaborative work with Farmers' Co-Op on return flows and sediment/nutrient reduction. Educate/inform the public & install sediment basins 10/2020 Update: Position vacated 7/2020, recruiting to fill 1/2021 Update: New hire Joe Peterson will work with District to provide this TA
2021	Research Grant Opportunities (Owyhee CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Delwyne Trefz	50	50	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: position vacated 7/2020, recruiting to fill 1/2021 Update: Delwyne and new hire Joe Peterson will work with District to understand what specific project ideas they have and then to provide this assistance
2021	Education - Youth & Adult (Clearwater, Lewis, and Idaho CD)	ISWCC	Ed/Outrch	Eileen Rowan	80	80	18		10/7/2020 Update: North Idaho Land and Soil Evaluation Contest, site selection, set up (77 youth); remaining events will be held in spring 2021
2021	Project Implementation & Grant Applications (Clearwater, Lewis and Idaho CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Eileen Rowan	1400	820	590		12/30/2020 Update: 4 new grants written; 39 site visits. Shared hours for Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis CD Project Implementation (5 existing grants, 9 new grants).
2021	TMDL Implementation Assistance for Division II	ISWCC	ТА	Eileen Rowan		297	21	\$1,362	12/30/2020 Discretionary hours: Youth Soil education at St. Maries, Big Cedar and Sears creek tour with OSC; spot checks on closed project; Envirothon discussions with George for soils assistance.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Bear Lake Diversions and Streambank Stabilization (Bear Lake CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	75	75	2		01/2021 Update: No requests for assistance 10/2020 Update: No requests for assistance to date (9/25/2020)
2021	Bear Lake Nutrient Reduction Project (Bear Lake CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	80	0	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours awarded 01/2021 Update: Assisted with landowner coordination,
2021	Blackfoot River 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	135	135	16	\$1,037	implementation, and project planning. 10/2020 Update: Site visit and assisted with surveying for livestock watering system.
2021	Blackfoot River Riparian Restoration Project (Central Bingham CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	70	70	18	\$1,167	01/2021 Update: Assistance with equipment acquisition, grant management, and landowner coordination. Project implementation is still scheduled for winter of 2021 and outreach/education is still postponed due to Covid-19. 10/2020 Update: Workshop and Project Coordination. Project Workshop (outreach and education component) on hold due to Covid-19. Project implementation will begin Winter 2021
2021	Cottonwood Off- Stream Watering (Oneida CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	110	110	25	\$1,621	01/2020 Update: Assisted with project reporting and documentation. Project implementation scheduled after winter season. 10/2020 Update: 2 Landowner and construction site visits and assistance with planning and development. BMPs have been fully completed for one participating landowner and partially completed for one other landowner .
2021	Curlew Valley TMDL Implementation Plan	ISWCC	СВ	George Hitz		100	20	\$1,297	Working on Draft Implementation Plan for partner review and input.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Education & Outreach Assistance (Power CD)	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)	Ed/Outrch	George Hitz	20	0	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours awarded
2021	Education, Outreach and Project Development (Portneuf CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	70				01/2021 Update: Assistance with IDL Fuels Reduction applications, other grant applications/research, project development, and a landowner meeting. 10/2020 Update: Research potential projects and funding sources.
2021	IDL Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects (Portneuf CD)	Portneuf Conservation District (Portneuf CD)	ТА	George Hitz	100	0	24	\$1,556	01/2021 Update: Assistance with grant reporting documents/GIS for Fuels Reduction project 10/2020 Update: Assistance with treatment/prescription maps for implementation.
2021	Middle Bear River 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	90	0	8		01/2021 Update: Assisted with final grant reporting. Project is completed (12/2020). 10/2020 Update: no hours awarded
2021	Oneida No-till Project (Oneida CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	60	0	4		01/2021 Update: Assistance with further project development 10/2020 Update: no hours awarded
2021	Power County Soil Health 319 Project (Power CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	150	150	23		01/2021 Update: Assistance with project development, coordination and equipment (no-till planter) ordering/purchasing. Outreach and Education has been postponed due to Covid-19. 10/2020 Update: Assistance with grant agreements, outreach, and project coordination.
2021	Project Development & Grant Application (North Bingham CD)	ISWCC	СВ	George Hitz	70	70	10		01/2021 Update: Assisting with project research and development - Potential Fuels reduction project with IDL.
2021	South Caribou 319 Project (Caribou CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	90	0	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours awarded

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Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	Assistance Provided	Notes
	Staff Training		. /						
2021	(Portneuf CD)	ISWCC	TA	George Hitz	30	0	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours awarded
	Stream Flow								
	Measurements & Data Collection (Franklin								
2021	CD)	ISWCC	ТА	George Hitz	37	0	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: no hours awarded
2021	USBR Maple Creek Irrigation Efficiency Improvement (Franklin CD)	Franklin Conservation	TA	George Hitz	91	91	20		01/2021 Update: Awaiting FSWCD action before proceeding with NEPA, project coordination, development and implementation. 10/2020 Update: Created project maps, assistance with environmental portions of grant (NEPA): USBR Correspondence, Meetings.
2021	District Liaison (Owyhee CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Jon Beals	25	25	0		10/2020 Update: position updated 7/2020, recruiting to fill 1/2021 Update: Delwyne attended 1 District meeting. New hire Joe Peterson takes over as liaison 1/4/2021.
2021	Galloway Dam Spillway Restoration, Monroe Creek (Weiser River CD)	Weiser River Conservation District (Weiser River CD)	ТА	Jon Beals	40	40	0		10/2020 Update: Post implementation water sample collection. Position vacated 7/2020, recruiting to fill
2024	District Liaison		65	Loretta			2.4	64 FFC	
2021	(Payette CD)	ISWCC	СВ	Strickland	60	60	24	\$1,556	10/2020 Update: , meeting attendance and DEQ liaison
2021	Lower Payette River 319, Phase 5, Grant Implementation(Gem CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Loretta Strickland	250	250	105		12/2020 Update: Gem and Squaw Creek are combined requests. General assistance and meeting attendance, 319 grant tracking and invoicing, project tour. Grant writing for new proposal and BAG presentation data prep. Final report writing and invoicing to close out grant.
2021	North Fork Payette River 319 Grant Implementation (Valley CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Loretta Strickland	150	150	42		10/2020 Update: Meeting attendance, general help and correspondence, 319 proposal assistance, and invoicing assistance.

Fiscal		Lead	Assistance	Person	Hours	Hours	Hours	\$ Value of Technical Assistance	
Year	Project Name	Implementer	Туре	Requested	Requested	Allocated	Provided	Provided	Notes
2021	Blaine SWCD Comprehensive Assistance (Blaine CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	30	30	7	\$454	10/2020 Update: First quarter because of being away from work for a significant amount of time this quarter only 3 hours of assistance was provided for the district which included one extra quarterly meeting attended. 1/5/2021 An extra 4 hours of technical assistance was provided including one extra quarterly meeting attended.
2021	Butte SWCD Comprehensive Assistance (Butte CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	48	48	8	\$519	10/2020 Update: First quarter only five hours of comprehensive technical assistance was provided the board. One extra quarterly meeting was attended by phone, I was unavailable for part of this quarter due to injury and subsequent surgery. 1/5/2021 Second quarter included 3 additional hours of technical assistance with one extra quarterly meeting attended. I was unable to participate with more meetings due to major surgery.
2021	Butte SWCD Workshop Assistance (Butte CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	10	10	0	\$0	10/2020 Update: No hours of workshop assistance were provided during the first quarter due to being out on medical leave during this time period. 1/5/2021 No hours of workshop assistance during the second quarter. I was unavailable for part of this quarter due to major surgery.
2021	Camas Comprehensive Assistance (Camas CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	25	25	6	\$389	10/2020 Update: First quarter 2 hours of comprehensive assistance was provided to the district. This was limited because i was out on medical leave for most of this time and the district was without an administrative assistant. 1/5/2021 Second Quarter: 3 more hours of technical assistance provided. No extra meetings were attended due to cancellation of the November meeting and not being able to attend the December meeting (if one was held) due to undergoing major surgery.
2021	Lemhi SWCD Project Tracker Assistance (Lemhi CD)	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	30	30	0		10/2020 Update: Due to medical leave this project has not been started yet. 1/5/2021 due to major surgery this project has not begun yet.

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Lead Implementer	Assistance Type	Person Requested	Hours Requested	Hours Allocated	Hours Provided	\$ Value of Technical Assistance Provided	Notes
2021	Neher Park Project	Local Governments (Local Governments)	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	24	24	0		10/2020 Update: No hours were contributed to this project due to extended medical leave. 1/5/2021 Update: no hours were accrued for this project due to major surgery.
2021	Soil Health Sampling (Gooding CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	8	8	0		10/2020 Update: Soil testing for the study will be conducted again for the third year in June 2021. Fields sampled in 2021 will be sampled for both chemical and biological samples. Second Quarter 1/5/2021 No hours to report. Sampling won't be until June. Planning will start during the third or fourth quarter.
2021	Soil Health Sampling (Wood River CD)	ISWCC	ТА	Rob Sharpnack	8	8	0		10/2020 Update: Soil testing for the study will be conducted again for the third year in June 2021. Fields sampled in 2021 will be sampled for both chemical and biological samples. 1/5/2021 Second Quarter Update. Planning for quarter sampling this year will begin in the third quarter and be conducted in the fourth quarter.

**TOTALS** 7128 6448 2781 \$191,209

СВ	Capacity Building
Ed/Outrch	Education & Outreach
E	Engineeering
ТА	Technical Assistance

#### MEMO



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright Chairman

> Cathy Roemer Vice Chairman

> > Erik Olson Secretary

Gerald Trebesch Commissioner

Wendy Pratt Commissioner

Teri Murrison Administrator  

 TO:
 CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS ROEMER, OLSON, TREBESCH, AND PRATT

 FROM:
 CHUCK PENTZER

 DATE:
 JANUARY 5, 2021

 RE:
 ANNUAL CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) REPORT

The main objective for Idaho CREP is to retire irrigated cropland reducing the ground water consumptive use. This program compliments other water saving efforts for the overall strategy to stabilize and replenish the ground water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). The ISWCC submitted the annual CREP report online to FSA December 17 and has posted an updated report on the Commission's Tracker program: <a href="https://conservation.idaho.gov/Project/Detail/12639">https://conservation.idaho.gov/Project/Detail/12639</a>. All 15 years of the annual reports are in the attachments sections towards the bottom of that location.

Below lists the status of number of contracts, acres, and location for the Federal FY20:

#### **CREP Contracts by FSA Administering Agency**

Administering County	No. of Contracts	No. of Acres
Bingham	58	6,568
Bonneville	5	798
Cassia	22	3,168
Jefferson	21	1,167
Jerome/Twin Falls	7	668
Minidoka	67	4,852
Power	6	1,193
TOTAL	186	18,414

#### **CREP Contracts by Soil Conservation District**

Conservation District	No. of Contracts	No. of Acres
Blaine/Wood River	12	1,215
Central Bingham	44	4,459
East Cassia	20	2,680
Jefferson/Madison	19	1,610
Minidoka	54	3,729
North Side/Twin Falls	8	577
Power	3	517
South Bingham	17	2,786
West Cassia	2	488
West Side	7	355
TOTAL	186	18,414

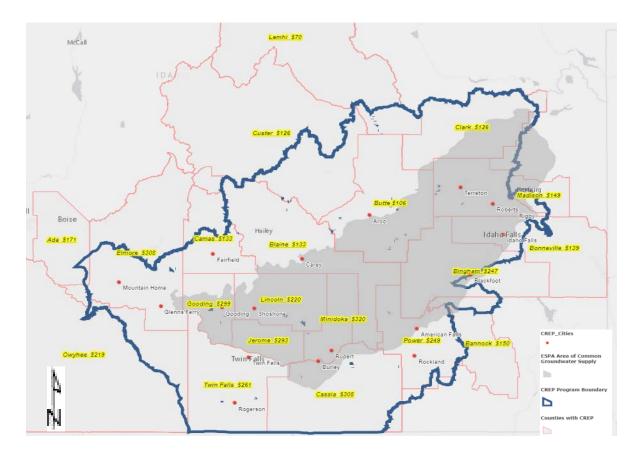
The first of the CREP contracts began with a startup date of October 1, 2006. This means that by September 30, 2021, 94 existing contracts on over 12,330 acres will have fulfilled their 15-year contract commitment. Staff expect that a lot of these participants

will want to re-enroll their fields into another agreement. Some of those reasons include:

- The new higher rental rates offered (see below)
- New contracts can be used and counted to help offset their water use reductions to help meet the Surface Water Coalition agreement.
- Many of the participating groundwater districts will be offering additional incentives to enroll.

The 2018 USDA Farm Bill implemented new requirements that will need to be incorporated into a new or amended Idaho CREP agreement. Our CREP working group has made suggestions & comments to incorporate into the new agreement and now is being reviewed by our legal team. After review, additional comments, and recommendations from our state agencies and National FSA, it is hopeful that the updated agreement will be accepted and ready to implement by April 2021. Once approved, we can then begin to process the re-enrollment offers with a start-up date deferment to October 1 and spread the anticipated workload over a broader period.

	IDAHO CREP FY 21 ANNUAL RENTAL RATES											
Ada	\$	171		Gooding	\$	299		Camas	\$	133	Minidoka	\$ 320
Bannock	\$	150		Jefferson	\$	140		Cassia	\$	308	Owyhee	\$ 219
Bingham	\$	247		Jerome	\$	293		Clark	\$	126	Power	\$ 249
Blaine	\$	133		Lemhi	\$	70		Custer	\$	126	Twin Falls	\$ 261
Bonneville	\$	139		Lincoln	\$	220		Elmore	\$	308		
Butte	\$	106		Madison	\$	149						



**REQUESTED ACTION:** For information only

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#### MEMO



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO:CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS TREBESCH,<br/>ROEMER, OLSON, AND PRATTFROM:TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER & PROGRAM MANAGERDATE:JANUARY 6, 2021RE:RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT<br/>PROGRAM UPDATE

Marketing	Print advertising was updated with new interest rates
U	(Ag Proud, Farm Bureau, Intermountain Farm & Ranch
	<ul> <li>Many conferences and trade shows are cancelled</li> </ul>
	because of Covid
	Jefferson SWCD is promoting RCRDP in their newslette
	and may print an advertisement in the Jefferson Star newspaper.
	<ul> <li>Staff has reached out to NRCS and ISWCC staff for loan</li> </ul>
	prospects
	<ul> <li>Am researching promotion through the districts</li> </ul>
	through print ads in district newsletters and possible
	calls into district meetings to discuss the loan program
	Attended the University of Idaho's 2021 Ag Outlook     (video)
FY 2021 to date	(video)
FT 2021 to date	• 10 loan inquiries were received for FY 2021 to date
	<ul> <li>5 loan applications were received for FY 2021 to date</li> <li>2 loan applications are in present.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>2 loan applications are in process</li> <li>2 loan approved (£126, 261) approved for EV 2021</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>2 loan approved (\$126,361) approved for FY 2021</li> <li>1 loan denied</li> </ul>
Loan Portfolio	<ul> <li>2 new loan applications are expected soon</li> <li>56 loans and \$2,154,800 portfolio balance</li> </ul>
Loan Fortiono	
Interest Rates	<ul> <li>1 delinquent loan 30 days late</li> <li>Interest rates were reduced by % point in August</li> </ul>
interest Rates	interest rates were reduced by 14 point in August
	• 2.5% 7 years
	• 2.75% 10 years
	• 3% 12 years
	• 3.25% 15 years
	• 5% second mortgage with
	6% second mortgage
	<ul> <li>IDLE Treasury interest rate 0.44%</li> </ul>

ACTION: For information only

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Chairman Cathy Roemer Vice Chairman

H. Norman Wright

Erik Olson Secretary

Gerald Trebesch Commissioner

Wendy Pratt Commissioner

Teri Murrison Administrator



# Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

322 E Front St, Suite 560 • Boise Idaho 83702 Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

ITEM: #9-1

# IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

Date and Time: Thursday, November 5, 2020 10:08 AM – 12:54 PM MT Location: 322 E. Front St., Suite 560 Boise, Idaho 83702

## MINUTES

## COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norman Wright (Chair) (Zoom) Erik Olson (Secretary) (teleconference) Wendy Pratt (Zoom) Cathy Roemer (Vice-Chair) (teleconference) Jerry Trebesch (teleconference)

## COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison	Crystal Rosen
Brenda Charles	Rachel Misnick
Delwyne Trefz (Zoom)	Delwyne Trefz (Zoom)
Bill Lillibridge (teleconference)	Terry Hoebelheinrich (teleconference)
Brad Shelton (Zoom)	Rob Sharpnack (Zoom)
Loretta Strickland (Zoom)	George Hitz (Zoom)
Carolyn Firth (Zoom)	

# PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Mike Sommerville, IASCD (Zoom)	Curtis Elke, NRCS (Zoom)				
Wendy Green, Adams SWCD (Zoom)	Karen Sharpnack, Wood River SWCD (Zoom)				
LeAnn Daman, Benewah SWCD (Zoom)	Durena Farr, Valley SWCD (Zoom)				
Art Troutner, Valley SWCD (Zoom)	Paul Kleint, Valley SWCD (Zoom)				
Sherry Maupin, Valley County Commissione	er (Zoom)				
Clinton Aston, Franklin SWCD (teleconferen	ice)				
Bob Flagor, Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD (tele	conference)				
Chris Simons, Balanced Rock/North Side/Twin Falls SWCDS (Zoom)					
Shantel Chapple Knowlton, Office of the Attorney General (Zoom)					

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

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Cathy Roemer, Jerry Trebesch, Erik Olson, and Wendy Pratt were present.

#### **ITEM #2: PARTNER REPORTS**

Action: None taken

#### **ITEM #3: AGENDA REVIEW**

Action: None taken.

#### **ITEM #4: LISTENING SESSION**

Art Toutner, Valley SWCD (as personal opinion.): "I just wanted to say how much we, as a District, depend on Technical Assistance from the Commission; without it we would be mostly dead in the water in the last couple of years. I want to stress that it's very important. I read a letter from the Kootenai-Shoshone District Supervisor there that pretty much mirrors my opinion of this fracas that we're having between IASCD and the Commission. I really don't understand it one little bit and am adamantly opposed to doing away with the Commission at this point in time. Thank you."

Duerna Farr, Valley SWCD added to Mr. Troutner's statement: "I started with the District in 2017. So, all my training came from the Commission, I would say. Without the support of Delwyne, and I did do quite a bit of work with Maria, and then I've successfully applied for and acquired 319 grants with the help of Loretta and huge input from Bill Lillibridge. From my vantage I don't know how it works any other way without the Commission. I can't imagine not having those services. We greatly appreciate the work that we've been able to do within our District with the Commission's assistance."

Wendy Green, Adams SWCD: "I want to echo what Art said. I also am speaking from a personal standpoint. Our November district meeting is the 18<sup>th</sup>, and we will at that point talk about what's going on with the proposed options. We are another small district that depends very heavily on the services that the Commission provides, and I don't know how our little district would survive if those services weren't there for us."

D. Farr: "One other quick comment. I think it also goes back to the relationship with NRCS also because -Adams County I don't want to speak for you. But I know our District where we're not in the close vicinity of an NRCS office it just makes the Commission all the more important to our ability to do our projects; get our projects on the ground with 319 grants."

Curtis Elke, NRCS: "I want to put a shout out to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a 'Thank You' to each of them that are on the call today for the signing of the MOAs and the supplemental addendum that was sent out as that was sent out to each of the Conservation Districts on us working together. I'm looking forward to continuing this great partnership that we have in place and looking for ways we can make it even stronger. So, thank you everyone."

• During a pause in comments from districts and partners there was a brief side discussion about filling the vacant WQRC position. For more information regarding the side discussion please reach out to Commission staff.

Chairman Wright: "Anyone else? This is your time."

D. Farr: "Not to use more than my fair share but I do need to also add that funding continues to be an issue for our District. Even though we are able to do great work with 319 grants it's difficult. Just want that on the record."

Chairman Wright: "I understand your comment very well, Durena! Anyone else? Mrs. Murrison do you have any comments to go along with this or do we need to move on?"

Teri Murrison, SWCC: "Just simply to say that the Board and the staff will certainly miss convening with the Districts at the Conference this year. It's always better to do this in person, but every bit of input that they have for us is greatly appreciated and we take it to heart. The Board figures out how to kind of make folks happy to the extent that they can. So, thank you for this input."

Chairman Wright: "Just to carry that forward we as Commissioners do not work in a vacuum. We do listen to other people and their comments. So, if you have any comments or questions please email us, call us, just don't sit on those questions. There might be a really good comment to your question, or it might be a really good idea. We don't profess to have all the ideas and some of them aren't very good sometimes we've been told. So, please, Districts and employees make sure that you keep giving us some feedback. If you don't think we took your question seriously the first time, ask again. But we would really appreciate that continued flow of information."

T. Murrison: "Mr Chair, I guess maybe it's an appropriate time to mention the Board's plan, Covid permitting, as soon as possible to get board members and Delwyne and myself out either to every District meeting or to regional district meetings to really hear about the concerns that have been expressed about the Matching Funds and to try to work with districts to come up with a restructuring so that it can work better for everybody. Just wanted to commend the Board for that and we're really looking forward to getting out and hearing in a less intimidating forum what Districts are thinking."

Karen Sharpnack, Wood River SWCD: "You're talking about Matching Funds. Is the Matching Funds in statute or is this something that your Commission just can make happen after you talk with all of the districts and have their feedback?"

T. Murrison: "I can start by responding to that and kind of kick it to Delwyne because that's his purview. But yeah they are in statute and to make any changes it will be necessary for statute to change and rule. So, it's not something that can be done this legislative session but we fully anticipate this robust outreach to districts to begin as soon as possible and carry through when new legislative language is due in to the Governor's Office for approval. So that's something we will be working on pretty intensely. Either by Zoom if Covid doesn't go away or in person as we go forward after the holidays."

K. Sharpnack: "Thanks, Teri. So, it sounds like it's in statute so it wouldn't be looked at until after some thought process, talking, and coming back in 2021. Would that be the same thing for reporting? And I'm not speaking for Wood River because we're okay with the reporting but for others we've heard that the reporting mechanism might be a little too intense and they would like to have it maybe zipped back a bit. Is that also in statute or is that something you guys could also work on this year?"

T. Murrison: "Well actually, and Delwyne I'll give you a chance to talk in a second. But it's in rule that we 'may require certain reports' so we looked at that and we have the latitude to change what we ask for and how we ask for it. So that will be a big part of what we'll also be working on with districts after the holidays. Delwyne, did you want to add anything to that? If I got something wrong please correct me."

Delwyne Trefz, SWCC: "No, I can't add anything to that. You covered it, Teri, that's correct. That's our understanding of statute and rule."

C. Elke: "There may be an opportunity for some additional funds for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and/ or the Commission though some funding that I've set aside for some requests for proposals coming out. I've set aside \$800,000.00 to be exact for some area wide conservation planning. This money is no match money which is even better. So, it's just those who can help us out in getting some of these workload projects completed on the ground and implemented. So, there are some area wide conservation planning, micro-irrigation design work, irrigation water management projects, and CRP assistances are the four requests for proposals that we're going to be sending out statewide. You're the first that I've told about this and I just want make sure that you are aware of some potential opportunities to tap into some of this \$800,000.00 that I've set aside."

T.Murrison: "So to clarify, Curtis, that is actual funding not EQIP/ Farm Bill related?"

C. Elke: "All of this is Farm Bill program related. Everything that I've mentioned is attached to a program of sorts, but it doesn't need to be EQIP specific. It can be any program, or any Farm Bill related association. But it does have to be a Federal program."

Chairman Wright: "Further questions or comments before we move on?"

Bob Flagor: "I just wanted to share with our partners here. In the election we had 2 new people who were elected supervisors. One of them put a statement in the local newspaper saying kind of subjective to serving on our board that we should not accept grants from the Dept. of Agriculture nor the Federal Government. So, I think he doesn't really understand what organization he's getting into. But I just want to warn you that this could be coming to a town near you."

Chairman Wright: "Okay... Any other comments? Hearing none shall we move on, Teri?"

T. Murrison: "Yes, sir."

#### **ITEM #5: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Action: None taken

#### **ITEM #6: REPORTS**

Action: None taken

#### **ITEM #7: MINUTES**

Action: Commissioner Olson made a motion to *approve the October 1, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted*. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **ITEM #8: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Action: Commissioner Pratt made a motion to *approve the Financial Reports for the month ended September 30, 2020*. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### ITEM #9: FY 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Action: Commissioner Trebesch made a motion to *approve the FY 2022 Budget Request Modifications as presented.* Commissioner Pratt seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **ITEM #10: DISTRICT MATCH ALLOCATIONS**

Action: Commissioner Olson made a motion to *approve distribution of November match allocations as recommended by staff.* Commissioner Roemer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

# ITEM #11: OMNIBUS FEE RULE OF THE IDAHO STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION, DOCKET 60-0501-2000F

Action: Commissioner Olson made a motion to *adopt as pending and republish the Omnibus Fee Rule in the November 18, 2020 Administrative Bulletin under Docket 60-0501-2000F.* Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **ITEM #12: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Action: Commissioner Pratt made a motion to *enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(b) for employee review.* Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Executive Session commenced at 11:52 AM.

Executive Session ended at 12:59 PM

No action was taken.

#### **ITEM #7: OPEN SESSION and ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM. The next Commission Meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on December 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Olson, Secretary

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# Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

322 E Front St, Suite 560 • Boise Idaho 83702 Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

ITEM: #9-2

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

**Date and Time:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:04 AM – 12:12 PM MT Location: 322 E. Front St., Suite 560 Boise, Idaho 83702

# MINUTES

### COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norman Wright (Chair) (Zoom) Erik Olson (Secretary) (Zoom) Wendy Pratt (Zoom) Cathy Roemer (Vice-Chair) (Zoom) Jerry Trebesch (teleconference)

### COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison Brenda Charles Delwyne Trefz (Zoom) George Hitz (Zoom) Crystal Rosen Rachel Misnick (Zoom) Loretta Strickland (Zoom) Chuck Pentzer (Zoom)

# PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Shantel Chapple Knowlton, OAG (Zoom) Bill Bitzenburg, Twin Falls SWCD (Zoom) Elaine Sonnen, Idaho SWCD (Zoom) Rob Sepich, LSO (Zoom) Karma Bragg, Custer SWCD (Zoom)

# ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Cathy Roemer, Jerry Trebesch, Erik Olson, and Wendy Pratt were present.

# **ITEM #2: PARTNER REPORTS**

Action: None taken

### **ITEM #3: AGENDA REVIEW**

Action: None taken.

# ITEM #4: DISCUSSION OF DRAFT COMMISSION PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

Action: Commissioner Olson made a motion *to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to Governor Little requesting the TRS2 position be reinstated pending edits approved by appointed committee.* Commissioner Roemer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### ITEM #7: ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM. The next Commission Meeting will be held on January 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Olson, Secretary

#### ΜΕΜΟ



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright Chairman

> Cathy Roemer Vice Chairman

> > Erik Olson Secretary

Gerald Trebesch Commissioner

Wendy Pratt Commissioner

Teri Murrison Administrator TO:CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS<br/>ROEMER, OLSON, TREBESCH, AND PRATTFROM:RACHEL MISNICK, SENIOR FINANCIAL SPECIALISTDATE:JANUARY 7, 2021RE:FINANCIAL REPORTS, FISCAL MATTERS

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Financial Detail and Fund Summary year-to-date reports for the months ended October 31, 2020 and November 30, 2020 are enclosed.

#### FY 2022 BUDGET HEARING

Our budget hearing to present the FY22 budget request to JFAC is scheduled for Friday, January 22.

#### COMMISSIONER HONORARIUMS

Below is a schedule of the honorarium balances as of November 30, 2020. Included in the schedule are the days and amounts budgeted for each Commissioner for FY21. We are in good standing with the travel budget for Commissioners as we have spent 36% of the honorarium allocation.

Commissioner	Benefit Costs included in Honorariums	Honorariums Budgeted	Expended to Date	Projected Balance/ (Overage)		
Wright	\$132	\$1,632	\$409	\$1,223		
Roemer	\$88	\$1,088	\$481	\$607		
Trebesch	\$44	\$544	\$323	\$221		
Pratt	\$88	\$1,088	\$377	\$711		
Olson	\$88	\$1,088	\$377	\$711		
Totals	\$440	\$5,440	\$1,967	\$3,473		

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- 1. Approve the Financial Reports for the month ended October 31, 2020
- 2. Approve the Financial Reports for the month ended November 30, 2020

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- October 2020 Financial Report
- October 2020 Fund Summary
- November 2020 Financial Report
- November 2020 Fund Summary

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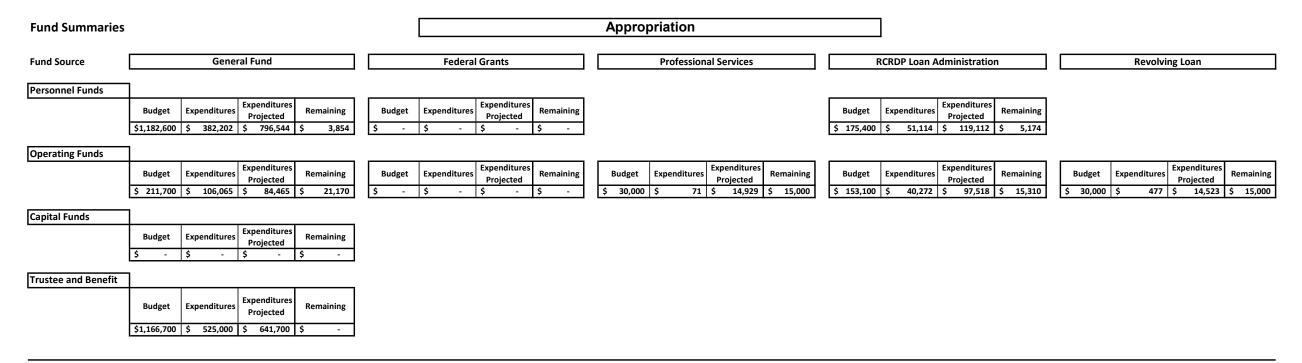
# SWC DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020

												170					
GENERAL FUND & OTHER FUNDS			OPERATING			CAPITAL OUTLAY			TRUSTEE & BENEFITS			CASH					
		ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL					ACTUAL	
		EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE					CASH	
		Thru End of			Thru End			Thru End			Thru End of			PLUS TOTAL		BALANCE	
		Current			of			of			Current		BEG CASH	<b>REC TO</b>	LESS TOTAL EXP	End of	
FY20	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	AT 7/1/20	DATE	TO DATE	Current	
INDEX					•••••												
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMIN	376,200	116,444	259,756	41,397	26,799	14,598							417,597	234	143,244	274,588	
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	5,000	1,216	3,784	8,927	512	8,415							13,927		1,727	12,199	
7201 FIELD STAFF	444,000	149,529	294,471	87,979	44,948	43,031							531,979	91	194,477	337,593	
7301 PROGRAMS	202,800	69,743	133,057	44,718	19,761	24,956							247,518	29	89,504	158,042	
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS										1,016,700	425,000	591,700	1,016,700		425,000	591,700	
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BLDG										150,000	100,000	50,000	150,000		100,000	50,000	
7350 CREP	154,600	45,271	109,329	28,680		14,635							183,280	24	59,316	123,988	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,182,600	382,202	800,398	211,700	106,065	105,635	0	0	0	1,166,700	525,000	641,700	2,561,000	378	1,013,268	1,548,110	
		32.32%			50.10%		N/	A for FY 20	021		45.00%				39.56%		
			0			•							4 600	0	4 600		
7316 FEDERAL GRANT-NRCS CTA	0		0			0							1,602	0	1,602	0	
7317 NFWF GRANT	<u> </u>	0	0 0		0	0		•	0		0	0	(12,131)	0	0	(12,131)	
TOTAL FEDERAL FUND 0348	0	0	U	0	0	U	0	0	0	0	0	U	(10,529)	0	1,602 -15.21%	(12,131) (12,131)	
															-15.21/0	(12,151)	
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERV				30,000	70	29,930							26,121	54	1	26,176	
TOTAL DEDICATED FUND 0450	0	0	0	<b>30,000</b>	70	<u>29,930</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,121	<u> </u>	1	26,176	
	Ū	· ·	Ū	00,000	0.23%		, i	•	· ·		U U	U U			0.01%	20,270	
LOAN FUNDS	P	PERSONNEL		C	<b>DPERATING</b>		CAI	PITAL OUT	LAY		CAS	H			BALANCE SHEET		
		ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL					ACTUAL		LOANS PAID		
		EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE					CASH		OUT,	NOTES	
		thru End of			Thru End			Thru End			PLUS TOTAL	LESS	BALANCE	NOTES	COLLECTIONS		
		Current			of			of		BEG CASH		TOTAL EXP					
					-			-					End of		/ADJUSTMENTS		
FY20	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	AT 7/1/20	DATE	TO DATE	Current	7/1/20	TO DATE	period	
	175 400	<b>F1 11</b>	124 200	152 100	40 272	112 020				7 4 7 7 4 7 7	270 602	100 407	7 200 202	2 400 940	10 701	2 242 407	
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMIN TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-00,01	<u>175,400</u> <b>175,400</b>	51,114 <b>51,114</b>	124,286 <b>124,286</b>	153,100 <b>153,100</b>	40,272 <b>40,272</b>	112,828 <b>112,828</b>	0	0	0	7,127,177 <b>7,127,177</b>	270,602 270,602	108,497	7,289,282 <b>7,289,282</b>	2,496,840	16,721 (171,454)	2,342,107	
TOTAL RCRUP ADMIN 0522-00,01	175,400	51,114	124,200	155,100	40,272	112,020	0	0	U	/,12/,1//	270,802		1,209,202		(1/1,454)		
		29.14%			26.30%		0					0.00%					
		23.14/0			20.30/0							0.00/0					
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ				30,000	477	29,523				28,296	58	477	27,877	209,978	0	209,978	
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	477	29,523	0	0	0	28,296	58	477	27,877	200,070	0	200,070	
	Ũ	Ũ		23,000			ĺ	5	•		20	.,,	_,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		Ũ	ADV FROM	
															PAYMENTS/ADJ		
														ADV FROM	TO DATE	PERIOD	
					1.59%							1.68%		168,563	10 DATE 0		
					1.35%							1.00%		100,005	0	100,005	

# Soil and Water Conservation Commission

# FY2021 YTD Financial Summary Through October 31, 2020

Updated: <u>1/7/2021</u>



# SWC DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2020

GENERAL FUND & OTHER FUNDS	P	PERSONNEL		C	DPERATING	i	CAI	PITAL OUT	LAY	TRU	STEE & BENEF	ITS			CASH	
		ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL					ACTUAL
	I	EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE					CASH
	I	Thru End of			Thru End			Thru End			Thru End of			PLUS TOTAL		BALANCE
	l	Current			of			of			Current		BEG CASH	<b>REC TO</b>	LESS TOTAL EXP	End of
FY20	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET		BALANCE	BUDGET	Current	BALANCE	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	AT 7/1/20	DATE	TO DATE	Current
INDEX																
7101 MANAGEMENT ADMIN	376,200	142,113	234,087	41,397	27,615	13,782							417,597	234	169,728	248,104
7111 MANAGEMENT BOARD	5,000	1,458	3,542	8,927	1,071	7,855							13,927		2,529	11,397
7201 FIELD STAFF	444,000	176,720	267,280	87,979	45,899	42,080							531,979	91	222,618	309,451
7301 PROGRAMS	202,800	84,520	118,280	44,718	20,070	24,648							247,518	29	104,590	142,957
7310 DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS	ł									1,016,700	950,378	66,322	1,016,700		950,378	66,322
7320 DISTRICT CAPACITY BLDG	ł									150,000	100,000	50,000	150,000		100,000	50,000
7350 CREP	154,600	56,060	98,540	28,680		14,368							183,280	24	70,372	112,931
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001	1,182,600	460,871	721,729	211,700	108,967	102,733	0	0	-	1,166,700	1,050,378	116,322	2,561,000	378	1,620,216	941,162
	<u> </u>	38.97%			51.47%		N/	A for FY 20	021		90.03%				63.26%	
	_													_		_
7316 FEDERAL GRANT-NRCS CTA			0			0							1,602	0	1,602	0
7317 NFWF GRANT	0		0			-							(12,131)	0	0	(12,131)
TOTAL FEDERAL FUND 0348	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(10,529)	0	1,602	(12,131)
															-15.21%	(12,131)
7325 SWC PROFESSIONAL SERV	ł			30,000	2,270	27,730							26,121	64	(2,199)	23,986
TOTAL DEDICATED FUND 0450	0	0	0	30,000	2,270	27,730	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,121	64	(2,199)	23,986
	-	-	-	,	7.57%		-	-	-	-	-	-			-8.40%	
LOAN FUNDS	Р	PERSONNEL		C	DPERATING	i	CAI	PITAL OUT	LAY		CAS	H	-		BALANCE SHEET	
	l	ACTUAL			ACTUAL			ACTUAL					ACTUAL		LOANS PAID	
	ł	EXPENSE			EXPENSE			EXPENSE					CASH		OUT,	NOTES
	l	thru End of			Thru End			Thru End			PLUS TOTAL	LESS	BALANCE	NOTES	COLLECTIONS	RECEIVABLE
	I	Current			of			of		BEG CASH	<b>REC TO</b>	TOTAL EXP		RECEIVABLE	/ADJUSTMENTS	
FY20	BUDGET	Month	BALANCE	BUDGET	-	BALANCE	BUDGET		<b>BALANCE</b>		DATE	TO DATE	Current	7/1/20	TO DATE	period
	202021	montin	271271102	202021	current	271271102	202021	current	<i>D,</i> (2) (1702	//_/_/_0	27112		earrent	,,_,_,		peniou
7351 RCRDP LOAN ADMIN	175,400	64,699	110,701	153,100	41,591	111,509				7,127,177	365,375	123,423	7,369,129	2,496,840	16,721	2,258,450
TOTAL RCRDP ADMIN 0522-00,01	175,400	64,699	110,701	153,100	41,591	111,509	0	0	0	7,127,177	365,375	,	7,369,129		(255,111)	
	-	-	-	-		-					-					
	<u> </u>	36.89%			27.17%		0					0.00%				
					0.7.5							0				
7361 REVOLVING LOAN - DEQ				30,000	876	29,124		-		28,296	69	876	27,489	209,978	0	209,978
TOTAL DEQ LOAN 0529-16	0	0	0	30,000	876	29,124	0	0	0	28,296	69	876	27,489		0	
	1															ADV FROM
	1														PAYMENTS/ADJ	
	1													ADV FROM	TO DATE	PERIOD
					2.92%							3.09%		168,563	0	168,563

# Soil and Water Conservation Commission

# FY2021 YTD Financial Summary Through November 30, 2020

Updated: <u>1/7/2021</u>

