

IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

**Date and Time:**

Tuesday, November 7, 2023  
1:00 am – 1:30 pm MST

**Location:**

The Riverside Hotel  
2900 Chinden Boulevard  
Boise, Idaho 83714

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MINUTES

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Erik Olson (Chair)  
Joan Cloonan  
Richard Savage

Wendy Pratt (Vice-Chair)  
Mitch Silvers  
Blake Hollingsworth

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

Delwyne Trefz  
Melonie Zeigler  
Meghan Brooksher  
Jake Connelly

Loretta Strickland  
Terry Hoebelheinrich  
Jenna Ditzel

**PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

David Perkins (Deputy Attorney General)  
Matt Woodard (IASCD Vice President)  
Wendy Green  
Steve Becker  
And a host of Conservation District Supervisors and staff

Devin Fielding (IASCD President)  
Richard Kunau  
Tom Daniel  
Travis Jones (IASCD Exec. Director)

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**ITEM #1: WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL**

Following lunch with the IASCD Directors, ISWCC Commissioners, and Conservation District Supervisors and staff, Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll call of ISWCC Board: Chair Erik Olson, Vice-Chair Wendy Pratt, Commissioners Mitch Silvers, Joan Cloonan, Richard Savage, and Blake Hollingsworth were present. Commissioners Karen Sharpnack was absent.

**ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW**

Action: None taken

**ITEM #3: FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST**

Ms. Ziegler presented a broad overview of the Commission's budget request for FY 2025. Ms. Ziegler reported that ISWCC's FY 2025 budget request was limited to not more than a 3% increase in our base State general fund appropriation for FY 2024. This

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3% equates to \$104,600, \$75,400 of which we requested as an increase in the funds available for distribution to conservation districts as match funding and the remaining \$29,200 to pay for mandatory personnel cost increases.

Following Ms. Ziegler's presentation she responded to several budget-related questions from the floor.

ACTION: Ms. Ziegler's report was provided for information only. No action was taken.

**ITEM #4: DISTRICTS' AUTHORITY TO MAKE DONATIONS**

Administrator Trefz and Deputy Attorney General Perkins addressed the question of whether Idaho Code places limitations on conservation districts' authority to make donations. Mr. Perkins stated that it is outside of the authorities and responsibilities of the Office of the Attorney General to provide legal counsel regarding specific districts' authorities as related to this question. However, Mr. Perkins encouraged districts to review the statutory responsibilities and powers of conservation districts as outlined in chapter 27, title 22 of Idaho Code and suggested that as long as district donations were supporting causes which further the accomplishment of the districts' statutory responsibilities, they should not need to be concerned.

ACTION: This material was presented for information only. No action was taken.

**ITEM #5: PARTNER'S DISCUSSION**

ISWCC and IASCD board members expressed the commitment of their respective entities to continuing to work collaboratively on opportunities and challenges which may arise.

ACTION: This discussion was engaged in for relationship building purposes. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM. The next Commission Meeting will be a joint listening session on November 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM MT at the Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise, Idaho.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sharpnack, Secretary