



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

Date and Time:

Thursday, September 21, 2023
10:20 AM – 12:18 PM MT

Location:

322 E. Front St., Suite 560
Boise, Idaho 83702

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Erik Olson (Chairman) (Zoom)	Joan Cloonan (Zoom)
Wendy Pratt (Vice-Chair) (Zoom)	Richard Savage (Zoom)
Karen Sharpnack (Secretary)	Blake Hollingsworth

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Loretta Strickland	Brenda Charles
Meghan Brooksher (Zoom)	Melonie Ziegler
Jenna Ditzel (Zoom)	Julie Downer

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Travis Jones, IASCD (Zoom)	David Perkins, OAG
Daniel Hoke, Water District 63	Karla Freeman, Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD (Zoom)
Mike Myers, Water District 63	Bruce Sandoval, NRCS (Zoom)

ITEM #1: WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL**PRESENTED BY: CHAIRMAN OLSON**

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Roll call: Chairman Eric Olson, Commissioners Wendy Pratt, Karen Sharpnack, Richard Savage, Blake Hollingsworth Mitch Silvers, and Joan Cloonan were present.

ITEM #2: AGENDA REVIEW**PRESENTED BY: CHAIRMAN OLSON**

Action: None taken

ITEM #3: PARTNER REPORTS**PRESENTED BY: CHAIRMAN OLSON**

Bruce Sandoval gave an NRCS update mentioning that the Inflation Reduction Act will bring more funds to the state through NRCS. He added that this is leading to needing to

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add staff to implement those funds. He also shared that they have a lot of water projects that have been helped by the WQPA funds.

Travis Jones let everyone know about the 2023 IASCD Conference taking place from November 7 -9 at The Riverside Hotel in Boise. He mentioned that Chanel Tewalt from ISDA will be speaking at the conference. He explained that some of their legislative session targets include equity dollars for districts and Ag Land Protection.
Action: None taken.

ITEM #4: REPORTS

PRESENTED BY: CHAIRMAN OLSON

Commissioner Pratt brought up the concern that Admin Kerry, District staff with Central Bigham SCD, was having a hard time finding an accounting firm to perform a government entity audit that was required of them due to administering WQPA funds. One firm quoted \$8,000 to perform the audit.
Action: None taken

ITEM #5: WATER ASSESSMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT FOR THE TREASURE VALLEY

PRESENTED BY: MIKE MYERS

Mike Myers, Boise River Water District 63, watermaster, and Daniel Hoke, Boise River Water District 63, deputy watermaster, together presented a PowerPoint explaining the Treasure Valley Water Supply Assessment and Sustainability Project. They went over in detail all the phases of their Project, including summarizing costs. They are partnering with the Treasure Valley Water Users Association and HDR Engineering in leading this project. They explained that the urbanization of the valley means that drains are changing and they are looking at how that affects the flow of the river.
Action: None taken

ITEM #6: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

PRESENTED BY: LORETTA STRICKLAND

In the Administrator's absence, Deputy Administrator Strickland presented the Administrator's Report. The report included staffing updates, noting that Dustin Diaz, Natural Resources Conservationist in Jerome, will be leaving on October 6th. The schedule for the six IASCD Fall 2023 Division Meetings was presented. She reminded everyone again about the upcoming IASCD Annual Conference in Boise in November. She also presented the Commission Meeting schedule, which includes regular meetings December through June, noting that there will be no meeting in the month of October, and the November meeting will be combined with the ISACD Annual Conference.
Action: None taken.

ITEM #7: FISCAL AND BUDGET REPORT

PRESENTED BY: MELONIE ZIEGLER

Ms. Ziegler began by explaining that because of difficulties with the LUMA conversion, she was unable to present the budget to actual statements at the meeting. She said that

she'll present financial statements as soon as possible, after she's comfortable with the integrity of the data. She submitted the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request by the September 1st deadline, though only with DFM and SCO working to correct the information.

Action: None taken.

ITEM #8: MINUTES

PRESENTED BY: CHAIRMAN OLSON

Action: Commissioner Hollingsworth made a motion to *approve the August 17th minutes as submitted*. Commissioner Cloonan seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Action: Commissioner Cloonan made a motion to *approve the August 30th minutes as submitted*. Commissioner Savage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Sharpnack abstained since she wasn't here.

ITEM #9: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES ANNUAL MATCH ALLOCATION REPORT

PRESENTED BY: LORETTA STRICKLAND

Ms. Strickland gave the District Support Services & WQPA Update. She began by presenting the ISWCC Staff Recommended Match. She reported that the District Allocations Work Group (DAWG) met via Zoom on September 15, 2023. Also presented was a District Allocations Work Group Report. She concluded with a Recommended November Distribution of Available FY22 Match Funds.

Action: Commissioner Cloonan made a motion to approve of the recommended district match allocation funds for FY2024 distribution. Commissioner Savage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM. The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2023, at 4 PM, at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sharpnack, Secretary