



# Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

**Date and Time:**

Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
9:06 AM – 11:14 AM MST

**Location:**

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

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### MINUTES

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Erik Olson (Chair)  
Wendy Pratt (Vice Chair)  
Mitch Silvers (Zoom)  
Blake Hollingsworth (Treasurer)

Joan Cloonan  
Karen Sharpnack (Secretary)  
Richard Savage

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

Delwyne Trefz (Administrator)  
Melonie Ziegler (Fiscal Manager)  
Sarah Quidgeon (Natural Res. Conserv.)  
Terry Hoebelheinrich (Loan Officer)  
Corri Parsley (Admin Assistant)  
Rob Sharpnack (Zoom) (CREP Manager)

Madison Vargovich (Natural Res. Conserv.) (Zoom)  
Meghan Brooksher (Natural Res. Conserv.) (Zoom)  
Bill Lillibridge (Lead Engineer) (Zoom)  
Loretta Strickland (Ag Program Manager) (Zoom)  
George Hitz (Operations/Dep. Admin)

**PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

Marshal Toryanski (DAG)  
Devin Fielding (IASCD)  
Amie Miller (NRCS) (Zoom)  
Tom Daniel (Boundary SWCD)

David Perkins (OAG)  
Bob Flager (Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD) (Zoom)  
Sarah Garcia (IDEA)(Zoom)

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

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

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

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

Action: None taken

### **ITEM #3: PARTNER REPORTS**

Amie Miller from NRCS updated staff they are working on hiring a new State Conservationist, Amie currently is acting State Conservationist so reach out to her for updates. Darvis Jordon is the assistant to State Conservations with partnerships. Their team also presented at Idaho Water Users meeting and made new contacts. Deadlines for the Conservation Innovation Grant deadline have not yet been announced but they will keep everyone updated.

Devin Fielding informed staff that the IASCD conference is being held at Hilton Garden Inn in Boise from November 18-20, 2025. Spring Division meetings are still being decided, but updates should be out soon. Our team is doing a hard push for WQPA and CREP, to ensure we secure funds.

Sarah Garcia informed staff that IDEA will be having quarterly meetings starting this year, the first being held January 22, 2025. They are working on creating policies and procedures for all district elections with the help of Delwyne Trefz and George Hitz.

Action: None taken

### **ITEM #4: REPORTS COMMISSIONERS & STAFF ONLY**

Delwyne updated on the State ITS System. Please contact Corri first if you experience any issues, she will submit a ticket and ITS. This will ensure they contact you directly, you may also call them for a faster turnaround. Staff can't help with reentering or updating the system.

Action: None Taken

### **ITEM #5: RESOUCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT (RCRDP) LOAN PROGRAM**

Terry followed up from question presented in the September meeting regarding RCRDP.

- There are several borrowers that have obtained multiple loans over the years, with one borrower currently having four loans. Staff are developing an intake form using Google docs to gather and keep track of loan inquiries.
- Marketing plans are to cut back on conferences and focus more on social media. We are currently gathering information on which platforms to use, how their metrics can be tracked, and the cost of media boots.
- Last year's activities included promoting at the Division 3 Fall Meeting, Terry typically only goes if invited by the districts. Staff met with Freshwater Trust to discuss RCRDP and Trust's sprinkler irrigation conservation project plans. A RCRDP news article was submitted to the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Association to be distributed in the January newsletter.
- We have a meeting with Commissioner Hollingsworth to discuss and review the application process and what approvals are required.

- Interest income from the life of the loan program is approximately \$3.96 Million. I will update staff on the interest income is per calendar year going forward.
- As for 2025, three loans applications have been received and we are waiting for additional information for two, and one loan was approved.

Action: None Taken

#### **ITEM #6: FISCAL REPORT**

Melonie presented to staff the FY 2025 Budget to Activity Summary for period ending December 31, 2024. Reporting at 50% through fiscal year, ISWCC's personnel expenditures are on track reporting general fund at 45.20% and RCRDP at 40.03% YTD. Operating expenditure, YTD for the general fund is 38.46% and RCRDP is reporting low at 19.51%.

Action: None Taken

#### **ITEM #7: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT**

George announced that Dani Roseman has accepted the Natural Recourse Conservationist position that will be in Jerome, Idaho. She will start February 3, 2025, and has an extensive agriculture background. Staff are continuing to work with Districts and assisting them with submitting their Five-Year Annual Reports due by March 31, 2025. Reminders, go out through Constant Contact and agency reports. George attended the First Timers Session of NASCA with the help of the Brown Scholarship of \$1,000. He provided the directors with the status of ISWCC, meet NASCA staff and leadership, along with form new connections with other State Conservation agencies. While there George was appointed to the Pacific Region on the NASCA Communications Committee.

Action: None Taken

#### **ITEM #8: ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Delwyne updated, that the Financial Manager Ziegler and Administrator Trefz attended the January 15th JFAC hearing during which the committee reviewed the request for the \$40k needed to replace a high-mileage pickup for field staff. This item is the only enhancement in our FY 2026 budget request.

Delwyne announced his intent to retire on May 16, 2025, before he does so there are items he will be working on such as the Strategic Plan, Performance Report template, Ag Pollution Abatement plan, Ag Program Specialist and Engineer Manager job Classifications, and finally the recruitment of his successor.

The 2025 Ag Summit is scheduled for February 17-18; Corri will be registering each Commissioner and making lodging arrangements. The Commission Board meeting will be directly after from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Upcoming meetings

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
Feb 18, 2025, 2-4 MT	322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise Scheduled to coincide with the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit	Regular
Mar 20, 2025, 10-3 MT	322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Regular
Apr 17, 2025, 10-3 MT	322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Regular
May 22, 2025, 10-3 MT	322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Regular
Jun 19, 2025, 10-3 MT	322 E. Front Street, Suite 560, Boise	Regular

Action: None Taken

#### **ITEM #9: MINUTES**

Action:

Following discussion of November 12, 2024, Joint Meetings were held at the IASCD conference at 2:30 PM and 4:00 PM. The minutes need minor edits so the board will approve during the February Regular Commission Meeting.

#### **ITEM #10a: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Hollingsworth made a motion to move the board into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Codes 74-206(1)(d) for the purpose of discussing a loan. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Savage, motion approved by board.

Executive session commenced at 10:37 AM

Executive session ended at 11:12 AM

No action was taken by the Commission

#### **ITEM #10b: RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Action: None Taken

#### **ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn meeting by 1<sup>st</sup> Commissioner Cloonan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Pratt, motion approved at 11:14 AM. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be on February 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM MT in Boise, Idaho.

Respectfully submitted,

January 16, 2024, Commission Open Meeting Minutes

Karen Sharpnack, Secretary