**WOOD RIVER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

11:00 A.M.

###  COMMUNITY CENTER

501 SOUTH BEVERLY - SHOSHONE, IDAHO 83352

# PRESIDING OFFICER: SUPERVISORS: ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

# Carl Pendleton - Chairman Kay Billington Barbara Messick

 Carolyn Ao**i**

**NRCS STAFF:**  **SWC STAFF:**

Derek Romer Carolyn Firth

#### REGULAR DISTRICT MEEING

Carl called the meeting to order @ 11:00 a.m.

**MINUTES:**

***Action Item:***

**Kay moved to approve the November minutes as mailed. *Approved***

Carolyn Aoi asked the question, “Is it a quorum when you have 2 supervisors in attendance when there are 4 on the board”. This was a perfect opportunity for Carl to ask Carolyn if today was a good day to become a member of the board. Carolyn thought for a minute and said yes, she would be glad to join the board.

**Kay moved to approve Carolyn Aoi as a new board member on Wednesday, December 15th, 2021, Carl seconded. *Approved***

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

***Action Item*:**

The board reviewed the financial report, wage report and bills to be paid. **Kay moved to accept the financial report, bills to be paid and wage report, Carolyn seconded. *Approved***

**Kay moved to accept an addition to the bills a Christmas Bonus in the amount of $300.00 for Barbara, Carl seconded. *Approved***

Barbara talked a little bit about looking into the cost of getting a device to accept credit and debit cards. She said it would be beneficial during the Tree sale time and other financial funding opportunities that pay with a credit card. Wells Fargo would charge us a monthly fee of $10.00 as well as 2.9% plus $15 a transaction per sale. Barbara looked into going with Square.com which you can get a good device for $50 to $100 that she would set up on her phone. There would be a 2.9% plus $10 transaction fee to use your card that would be included in payment, but no other fees occur. **Kay moved to approve Barbara purchasing a device and set up an account on her phone to accept most credit cards, Carolyn seconded. *Approved***

**SWC REPORT:**

Carolyn Firth who will be our SWC representative after Rob Sharpnack took another position for SWC. She reported on the following:

* Performance Reports are due Dec 20th
* Our CREP Manager Position announcement is out, and we hope to have someone hired to replace Chuck early in 2022.
* Our South Idaho Engineer Position announcement is also open again. Cross your fingers that we will be able to hire the perfect person for that position.
* We will be announcing our open Division 3 WQRC Position early in 2022 so we have someone hired and ready to go well before field season begins. This is the position vacated by Loretta.
* A big thanks to Districts for keeping in touch with their State Representatives and Senators.
	+ Encourage Districts to continue to stay in contact with legislators before and during the 2022 legislative session which begins Mon, Jan 10th
	+ Suggest they be ready to respond to requests from IASCD Leadership for assistance lobbying for greater support for Conservation Districts. The Commission, IASCD, NRCS and other partners are working with the Governor’s Office and State decision makers to secure funding for District implementation projects and at some point, may ask Districts to weigh in with their local legislators—stay tuned. If we receive an appropriation to fund implementation projects, it may be directed through our old Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) program. Attached is a white paper that describes WQPA, which hasn’t been funded since 2010. Feel free to share the attachment.
* To all District Supervisors and District Staff, a huge Thank-You for maintaining their commitment to locally-led voluntary natural resources conservation.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Derek reported on the following:

* Team I0 has a total of 21 applications for EQIP (9 Lincoln – 11 Gooding 1 Camas) a variety of projects.
* Deadline for ranking is April 2nd  - May 15th everything signed and ready to go
* 2 CSP renewals
* Maureen Pepper, water quality specialist for NRCS, attended a board meeting in Gooding to give them first- hand how to apply for this special NWQI program. He has asked Maureen for a template of projects that have requested funding and will let us know when he hears back from her. Any water entity can now apply for such funding, which is new, so we will have to keep our eyes open on project areas. Derek will continue to follow up.
* Locally Led meeting turned out good with resource concerns and priorities set. It looks like we will have funding like last year which was roughly $ 500,000.00.
* Engineers are still few and far between.
* TEAM 10 LEAD has still not filled.
* **COVID** - Continuing to follow National guidance concerning COVID operational status protocol.

**CHAIRMAN REPORT:**

Carl reported on the following:

* Magic Reservoir is at 16,000-acre ft. Snowpack is 102% of normal but the eastern snowpack is 70% of normal extremely low. Airplanes have been in the air just recently seeding clouds whereas November there was a total of 4 hours in the air.
* Ground Water Advisory board meets today. Carl will be in that meeting and Senator Michelle Stennett to come up with a plan with pumpers up north and have it approved by December 21st. It is a complicated subject with many issues to iron out and agree on.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**NEHER PROJECT:**

Kay reported that she met Carl and Contractor, Nathan Schutte out on the site the first part of December, to look over fencing on the property. Kay explained the fencing was very unique and different but looks it will keep animals out. Ameri Corp volunteers have been out many times picking weeds and doing a lot of the heavy lifting cleaning up the park.

Canyon Excavation has **NOT** started work on the streambanks, but their hope is to do so before Christmas.

**TREE ORDERS:**

Barbara handed out a Tree Order with cost and profit as of today, things may change depending on the weather and orders for 2022. Barbara will be working on the Tree Order form to be sent out and advertising throughout January until Tree Sale day.

**POCKET PARK:**

Barbara reported that we had a workday on Saturday, November 6th. We invited the AmeriCorps group to help us via Karma Fitzgerald and they worked extremely hard. We put down the railroad ties as the base for our green house and leveled the grown. We also did tree trimming and cleaned up plants and leaves making the park look beautiful.

**COMPILATION:**

Barbara reported that Scott Hunsaker and Co. recommended the District get their audit completed annually. By getting it every other year, the cost would be doubled and if there were issues, they would be harder to solve. The board agreed to remain with Hunsaker and Co. and continue with an annual audit or compilation, whatever is needed. **Kay moved to accept and sign the Letter of Engagement, Carl seconded*, Approved***

**INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:**

Barbara reported on the following:

* **LEGISLATIVE MEETING**- Barbara reported the meeting is today after the board meeting and hopes it will be a good turnout.
* **PERFORMANCE REPORT** - Barbara reported that Carl signed the certification and approve the Performance Report to be sent!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pesticide Workshop:** Barbara reported that all the presenters are on board and have heard back from the Dept. of Agriculture in which they have approved 6-7 credits. We are moving forward with lunch provided by a 4-H group and Blaine SCD is on board and will help with donuts for the morning.

**IASCD Business Meeting:**

Voting Delegate for the IASCD business meeting was selected and voted on. **Kay moved to approve Carl Pendleton and Karen Sharpnack as voting delegates for the Wood River SWCD, Carolyn seconded. *Approved***

**Legislative Social and Capitol Display:**

Carl will be attending the legislative social Monday January 17 from 3-5 p.m. as well. Barbara will work on a display in conjunction with Cindy Snyder for Division IV and will hopefully attend on Tuesday for most of the day.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The board received paperwork to fill out for Wells Fargo for a certification of official custodian form. Carl will fill it out and Barbara will send it off today.

**ADJOURNED:**

**NEXT MEETING: January 12 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Carl Pendleton - Chairman,**

**Wood River SWCD**