

MINUTES OF JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Rigby Service Center
January 14th, 2010

Supervisors Present: Mel Briggs, Richard Jacobson, Shane Shippen, Jerry Foster, Jason Ferguson
Others Present: Howard Johnson, District Conservationist; Becky Crystal, District Employee Randy Purser
Division VI Director, Pat Hendren, Mud Lake SWCD Supervisor, Justin Krajewski, ISCC Commission,
Sara Schmidt, ISCC Commission, Ben Evans, CED for FSA, Mitch Witmill, Jefferson County Weed
Supervisor, Brian McLain, Jefferson County Extension Agent
Mel Briggs, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
Supervisors Absent: None

Minutes of the December 10th 2009 Jefferson S.W.C.D. Board Meeting was mailed out earlier for review.
Richard made a motion, seconded by Shane, to dispense from reading the minutes and accept them as written. Motion passed.

Financial Report for December 2009 was reviewed. **Shane made a motion, seconded by Jerry, to receive the December Financial Reports as read and file for audit. Motion passed.**

Bills

The following bills were discussed:

- IASCD - \$1,081.23 - Special Allocation to Fund Executive Director Position
- Becky Crystal - \$423.65 - Payroll 12/1/09 - 12/15/09
- Idaho Department of Ag. - \$100.00 - 2010 Tree License Renewal
- Becky Crystal - \$579.20 - Payroll 12/15/09 - 12/31/09
- Speedy CPS - \$282.25 - December Newsletter
- IASCD - \$50.00 - IASCD Division Dues
- Legislative Services \$24.00 - 6 Legislative Directory Books
- Becky Crystal - \$137.59 - Reimburse Becky for December Newsletter Mailings
- United States Post Office - \$42.00 - 5 Books of Postage Stamps
- Idaho State Tax Commission - \$35.00 - Payroll withholding tax
- Cash - \$100.00 - Petty Cash for office
- United States Treasury - \$487.23 - Payment of Quarterly Federal Tax
- Idaho Department of Labor - \$14.23 - Unemployment Quarterly Insurance Tax
- State Tax Commission - \$4.14 - Quarterly Sales Tax
- Becky Crystal - \$65.00 Reimburse Becky for partial payment on bulk mailing permit
- Broulims - \$19.22 - December board meeting and Local work group meeting.

Becky added the following bills: Cash \$150.00 – petty cash for tree sale, IDEA Dues - \$35.00 – Dues for 2010, Becky Crystal - \$491.76 – Payroll 1/1/10 – 1/15/10. **Shane made a motion, seconded by Jerry to pay the above bills. Motion passed.**

NRCS Updates

Howard passed out the snow tel report and talked briefly about it. Howard let the board know that the EQIP deadline was February 12th, and that they currently had 55 applications. 45 of those are in Jefferson and 10 are in Clark County. Howard let the board know that there is 8.3 million in funding for the State this year, about the same as last year. Ranking will be done on a Division level again. Howard talked briefly about the local work group meeting that was held in December and let the board know that their

thoughts and opinions have been voiced. Howard talked in length about the CSP signups. NRCS is still accepting applications for this and there has not been a cut of date as of yet.

Ben Evans

Mel introduced Ben Evans to the group and turned the time over to him for a few minutes. Ben is the new CED for FSA. Ben talked about a new form the 926 that all producers need to come in and fill out. This new form is trying to help the land owner save a step. Before, the land owner would have to have their accountant certify info and then send it into the IRS. With this new form the information will be sent straight to the IRS saving a few steps for them. The Land owner has to mail this form into the IRS, FSA will not be able to send this in for you. The land owner has until June 15th to get the forms signed and sent in. If you do not fill this form out they will make you pay back the 09 funding, this also applies to the EQIP program. This form will have to be filled out every year.

DEQ Meeting Update

Mel talked to the board about what information he found out regarding the DEQ meeting. The meeting will be about crop residue burning, and will more or less be an informal meeting to critique the program. Mel said they have held one meeting so far and only had one participant. Jason expressed his doubts about this meeting and Mel let the board know that it was totally up to them weather they want to hold the meeting or not. The board decided at this time they would not be able to hold this meeting with so many things in the upcoming months to plan for.

Weed Meeting

Becky let the board know that in order to receive the grant money from the RC&D they need to hold the Weed Awareness Meeting before March 10th. The board decided March 4th would be a good day to hold this event. They asked Becky to try and reserve the commons area @ Rigby High School and if she was not able to get that then the Library would be fine. The group discussed what topics they might talk about and who they will get for speakers. Brian McLain is going to call Mac McDonough and see if he can come and speak on Pesticide label updates. Mitch will also speak along wit Brian McLain. The board will discuss the details more at the next meeting.

March Division Meeting

The board discussed in length their different options to hold the Spring Division Meeting. They decided that the Ririe Senior Center would be the best place for this to be held. The board also talked about the dates and decided on March 18th or March 25th, Randy Purser will call Becky next week and let her know which date would work best for him. Randy will find out next week when Division 5 will be holding their meeting. The board asked Becky to call the senior center and see if we can hold both dates until we here back from Randy. The board also discussed the food. There were many suggestions for Becky to look into.

Yellowstone SWCD/Tree Sales

Becky let the board know that Denise from Yellowstone SWCD had called and asked if they could purchase some of the larger Blue Spruce Trees from Jefferson so they would not have to place an order through Sesters for about 50 trees. The Board talked about what to charge them and they said anywhere from \$38.00 to \$39.00 a tree. Becky will call and let Denise from Yellowstone know. Becky also updated the board on how their tree sales were going. As of January 13th Jefferson has sold \$3,069.76 in trees.

Randy Purser/ Sara Schmidt

Randy Purser Division 6 Director handed out a Draft Legislation and went over the handout in length. Randy said this draft proposes to eliminate the reference to the "state soil conservation commission" and establish a non-regulatory "office of soil and water conservation" this would be a five member board. In this new draft we could have better geographical representation. The districts may submit a list of up to 3 names for board vacancies that the Governor may consider. Randy talked about the new audit process and

names for board vacancies that the Governor may consider. Randy talked about the new audit process & how it would help the smaller districts, if you were over 250,000 then you are required to have a yearly audit. The Base funding would increase to \$8,500 (this would include the money to fund the IASCD also). The match would be different, and it limits allocation to \$50,000 to any one district in a fiscal year. This draft also changes how the removal of supervisors is handled. The supervisor would be recalled by a ballot not by the commission.

Randy also talked about the incentives for Districts to consolidate. The two Districts would receive both base funds for a few years. Randy talked about the things that still need to be figured out.

- Is there a Commission
- Where is it located in State Government
- What role they will play
- There needs to be a clear chain of demand
- A clear place where money would come from

Randy also said some very good things have come from this. One is the transparency of the budget and say in commission board members.

Sara Schmidt-

Sara gave some background on the NRCS. She also let the board know that Justin Krajewski has taken on a new roll as regional manager and that Jeff Maser is our new contact. Sara went over the budget that is currently 1.3 million with a decrease of 1/3 cut from the Commission now. Sara talked in length about the current budget and let everyone know how important it is to contact our local legislatures and let them know what is going on.

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Becky let the board know that the Farmer Merchant Banquet would be held on March 11th. Mel asked the group if they could think of anyone that has been doing outstanding work. Howard gave the board a few names for them to discuss, Gary Walker, George Ellsworth, Roger Clark, Rhett Watson, Dennis Snarr, Wayne Robinson, and Brent Lott. The board talked in length about these farmers. **Richard made a motion, seconded by Jerry to nominate Rhett Watson for Conservation Farmer of the year. Motion passed.**

Mud Lake

Mel talked about the merge with Mud Lake. Mel went over the process of what needs to be done to make this happen. Pat asked if they unify several districts into one how do you select the supervisors. Justin said they have all the steps in place in district law. Sara said she would talk with the attorney general's office to find out what the state law is for the supervisors position. Sara said they will do the research so when and if the merge happens all the parties involved will be informed with the right steps and information to make this go smooth. Pat asked Sara what steps Mud Lake would need to do to sell their building and what can they do with these funds. Pat also talked about representation. Everyone needs representation from the whole area. Sara said she will make up a petition to start the process and will also get us a fact sheet so we know what to expect and what needs to be done next.

Directors Reports

Richard talked with Mr. Hoage from Rigby High School about the Environthon, Richard talked with the board about sponsoring one team this year since this would be Mr. Hoage's first year at this event. The board thought this would be a good idea.

Next board meeting will be held February 11, 2010 at the Rigby Service Center at 10:00 a.m.

Jason made a motion, seconded by Jerry, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

Minutes taken and typed by Becky Crystal.