



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015
Safari Inn, Boise, Idaho**

CALL TO ORDER

President Kit Tillotson called the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors to order at 8:00 AM on Monday, January 26, 2015. Those present included Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown, Steve Becker, Art Beal, Lynn Bagely, Glen Gier and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Travis Thomason (NRCS), Chris Simons (IDEA), Teri Murrison (ISWCC), Delwyne Trefitz (ISWCC), Nicholas Peak (EPA) and Bill Stuart (EPA).

PRESENT

**11/15,16,17/14,
12/8/14 & 1/14/15
MINUTES APPROVED**

The board reviewed the agenda and made additions for special guests joining the meeting. The minutes of the board of directors meeting held on January 14, December 8 and November 15, 16 & 17 were distributed for review (see attached). Art Beal moved the minutes of January 14, 2015 be approved. Seconded. Passed. Art Beal moved the minutes of December 8, 2014 be approved. Seconded. Passed. Art Beal moved the minutes of November 15, 16 & 17 be approved. Seconded. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Becker presented the current financial report for the period of July 1, 2014 - January 24, 2015 for review of the board (see attached). Becker addressed the income and expenses with special attention given to the 2014 annual meeting. Kit Tillotson requested that travel expenses be placed in the staff expense category. Art Beal moved to accept the treasures for the period of July 1, 2014 - January 24, 2015. Seconded. Passed. The board reviewed the annual meeting and the association's agreement to allocate a portion of the profit to IDEA. The emphasis of the allocation should continue to go to the support of employees and be advanced towards training. The current MOU was reviewed, the allocation amount and how to proceed forward with the agreement for 2015 was discussed. Billie Brown moved to allocate \$2,435 to IDEA. Seconded. Passed. The board thanked IDEA and Chris Simons for their work and support. Nicholas Peak and Bill Stuart joined the meeting at this time.

EPA UPDATE

Kit Tillotson welcomed Nicholas Peak and Bill Stuart from the Environmental Protection Agency and updated the board on how the invitation to the meeting had come about. Peak discussed the Regional Ag Council for EPA Region 10 and his position as Project Coordinator for Idaho. He hopes to facilitate open communication and act as a liaison to producers and landowners in the state. The board asked questions of the agency representatives concerning conservation in Idaho. Stuart discussed 319 grants and was asked where he thought the grants were headed in the future. His outlook was that the grants would continue to decrease and less funding would become available from the federal government. Both Peak and Stuart thanked the board for their time and

communicated that they were willing to become more involved in local meetings and with producers and landowners.

IDEA REPORT

Kit Tillotson welcomed Chris Simons to the meeting. Simons thanked the board for providing time and for the continued relationship between IDEA and IASCD. IDEA was pleased to help with the annual conference and reviewed the directory. Simons reported on the past year, funding sources, contributions, the structure of the association and division workshops. IDEA requested the use of a conference call number for their meeting and thanked the board for the allocation from the annual meeting. Tillotson thanked Simons for joining the meeting and the support of IDEA.

ENVIROTHON

Lynn Bagley gave an update on Envirothon and his view of how the committee was working together. The 2015 Idaho Envirothon competition will be held May 4th and 5th at the Living Waters Ranch in Challis, Idaho. The 2015 Current Topic will be Urban/Community Forestry and the winning team from each state and province advance to the North American Envirothon for an opportunity to compete for recognition, scholarships, and prizes. The North American Envirothon competition will be held on July 27-August 2, 2015 at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

The board reviewed the resolution committee from conference and gave their suggestions for 2015. All agreed that the current committee fulfilled their duty at conference and appreciated their willingness to serve. The board put forward names that may be willing to serve for chairman and concluded it was time to spell the current chairman of the committee from his obligations after he has continued to serve over the past few years without complaint. Glen Gier moved to approve Roy Prescott as Chairman of the resolution committee. Seconded. Passed.

POLICY MANUAL

Kit Tillotson requested the board review the IASCD Policy Manual prior to the meeting. Billie Brown moved that Art Beal be in charge of the policy review and submit updates for board approval of the policy manual. Seconded. Passed.

PARTNER BUILDING WORKGROUP

Steve Becker reviewed thoughts relating to the establishment of a partner building workgroup to meet in Boise. The workgroup would include agency directors, industry leaders and other influential partners with the goal of reaching out to supervisors and districts on specific conservation projects. This could offer an opportunity to find new partners and implement projects in those areas of the state that maybe underserved. Becker and Tillotson gave examples of those that may be interested and discussed holding a meeting in Boise sponsored by IASCD. Becker will continue to develop the opportunity.

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Legislative presentations will be given to the germane committees with ISWCC and the presentation of the ISWCC Budget before JFAC will be Tuesday, February 3. The board indicated who would be available to be in Boise and finalized what was to be included in the presentation. The committees are as follows:

Feb 16 - House Ag Affairs

Feb 17 - Senate Ag Affairs

Feb 18 - House Environment, Energy & Technology

Feb 23 - Senate Resources & Conservation

Feb 25 - Senate Resources & Conservation

AG SUMMIT

The board discussed the associations past involvement with the Larry Branen Ag Summit and the need to be represented at the upcoming conference on February 16 and 17. The committee that Teri Murrison and Benjamin Kelly are on chose to focus the 2015 summit on soil health and the title of the event will be "Soil health – Idaho's dirty little secret." Steve Becker moved to approve reimbursement to board members willing to attend the Ag Summit and Strolling Super with Idaho Legislators. Seconded. Passed.

The meeting was recessed for lunch.

CAPITOL DISPLAYS

IASCD will be hosting Conservation at the Capitol on the fourth floor of the Idaho State Capitol on Tuesday, January 27. Representatives from the board will also be meeting with legislators throughout the day to discuss district allocations.

NRCS UPDATE

Kit Tillotson welcomed Travis Thomason and thanked him for joining the meeting. Thomason introduced himself and gave his background with NRCS. He relayed his philosophy and the importance of a strong relationship with districts in his 10 years at the agency. Thomason gave an update on RCPP and other various programs under NRCS management. Highly Erodible Lands will need to be addressed and pertain to cropland, hayland or pasture that can erode at excessive rates. They contain soils that have an erodibility index of eight or more. If a producer has a field identified as highly erodible land, that producer is required to maintain a conservation system of practices that keeps erosion rates at a substantial reduction of soil loss. Fields that are determined not to be highly erodible land are not required to maintain a conservation system to reduce erosion. Thomason also informed the board that Clint Evans was chosen as the state conservationist in Colorado. He thanked the board for their time and looks forward to working in Idaho.

ISWCC UPDATE

Kit Tillotson welcomed Terry Murrison and Delwyne Treftz to the meeting for the ISWCC update. Murrison addressed the commission's strategic plan and thanked Steve Becker and Art Beal for their work and for attending meetings. On a conference call that included Tillotson, Steve Becker and Benjamin Kelly, TMDL's were addressed and a plan for a phased in approach that would include the commission and the association to define roles and to look for other possibilities in administering the program was discussed. This could include finding contractors able to help with TM DL work and freeing up hours for the commissions technical expertise and assistance. Murrison updated the board on the commission position held by Dave Radford and his upcoming confirmation hearings before the legislature.

2015 CONFERENCE

The board reviewed the 2015 Annual Conference that will be held in Boise. Benjamin Kelly reported that conference sponsors will be contacted and facility reservations have been made but have not been finalized for next year. The two probable options will include the Boise Hotel & Conference Center and the Riverside Hotel. The board discussed tour options as well as holding a half day of the conference at the Idaho State Capitol. This could include tours of the building, lunch and the education portion of the program being held in the main auditorium and

requested that Benjamin Kelly see what is available for the Monday afternoon program on November 16. The breakout sessions will include possible presentations by EPA, IDEA, ICREMP and cover crops. The board reviewed the 2014 business meeting minutes and possible updates that could be made on the agenda for 2015.

VEHICLE BID

Kit Tillotson relayed to the board that the remaining vehicle the association currently has in their possession received no bids from districts. Steve Becker moved to consign the truck for the amount of \$4000. Seconded. Passed. Steve Becker moved to send the truck to auction in Pocatello contingent on the impending consignment. Seconded. Passed.

IASCD WEBSITE

Steve Becker updated the board on the progress of the IASCD website. The board agreed that it would be beneficial to refurbish the current website and to look at proceeding with a new webhost. Becker spoke to the offering to explore the option of a local high school contributing website design as a senior project.

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was set for June 12, 2015 in Boise.

ADJOURNMENT

Art Beal moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director