



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
November 12 & 15, 2019
Riverside Board Rm
Riverside Hotel - Boise, Idaho**

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Becker called the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday,

PRESENT

November 12, 2019 at the Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniel, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Treasurer Chris Simons (IDEA).

**9/18/19 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 Wednesday, September 18, 2019 were distributed for review (see attached). Tom Daniel moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed.

IDEA REPORT

Steve Becker welcomed Chris Simons to the meeting. Simons thanked the board for providing time, and reviewed IDEA's budget report from 2019. IDEA was pleased to help with the district directory, has continued to receive updates from districts and has been working on the employee directory. The funding from IASCD, through the MOU, was allocated towards employee division workshops and was also allocated in support of the State Land & Soil, State Forestry and Envirothon contests at \$450 each. Simons also discussed employee retention.

Two \$100.00 scholarships for district employee training for enhancement of job skills were given to East/West Side SWCD and Madison/Clark CD. 2019 IDEA workshops included each of the six divisions using \$600.00 to spend on workshops. Division 4, 5 and 6 conducted a joint workshop that covered the updated state open meeting law as well as Maria Minicucci providing instructions on the importance & reasoning of the various ISWCC reports that are required to be submitted by Districts to ISWCC. 8 district employees and one district supervisor attended the workshop representing 10 districts. In Division 5, some districts are encouraging producers to plant pollinator friendly plants. 10 employees visited the NRCS-PMC in Aberdeen where crews are working on a few pollinator projects. They also toured the "Butterfly Haven" in Pingree and conducted training on the State Open Meeting Law requirements, reviewed potential grant opportunities and the updated and improved the IDEA website. Steve Becker thanked Simons for joining the meeting. Chris Simons left the meeting at this time.

BUDGET REVIEW

Richard Kunau and Benjamin Kelly reviewed the 2019 year-end financial report and the 2020 current financial report distributed at the fall division meetings (see attached). The board discussed IASCD insurance coverage and what is currently being expensed. The revenue received and expensed under the miscellaneous line-item is a pass-through for an annual transaction for Envirothon event liability insurance. The National Envirothon Support income line item of \$33,020 was from the Idaho Committee and was pass through funds that were not actually a profit or expense for IASCD. Kunau will explain the pass-through funding during the membership business meeting and answer questions. Kelly noted the separate legislative social account and that IASCD will send out additional correspondence to both districts and legislators concerning the function. The board reflected on last

year's legislative social held in January. The 2020 social is expected to provide an accurate reflection of expenses and a better idea of how many legislators and district supervisors will attend year to year. There has been a steady increase since 2016 and the last two years has seen more legislators attend that district supervisors and employees. Tom Daniel moved to approve the Treasurers Report and current financial. Seconded. Passed.

2021 DRAFT BUDGET

Benjamin Kelly distributed the 2021 Draft Budget circulated at the fall division meetings and that will be presented to the membership for review at the annual business meeting (see attached). Kelly addressed the proposed income and expenses that had been set at the June 7 board meeting in Burley as well as the current expenses expected at the conference. The board reviewed the annual transfer of the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) account. The board reviewed the updates and asked questions they would expect from the membership. The 2021 Draft Budget will be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting for their consideration and approval.

2019 CONFERENCE

The board reviewed the 2019 IASCD Annual Conference agenda and the week's upcoming events in depth (see attached). Mike Sommerville discussed the tour to Vine & Branch Ranch and McIntyre Pastures. The McIntyre's started bringing more cows back on the land to help build soil and to utilize the refuse left through the no-tilling they had begun to do and believe in. They wanted to build the land the way nature has done it with minimal artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Since that time, cows are on the farm as well as pastured hogs and pastured chickens, which follow in rotation behind the cattle.

Provisions were made for invocations and Tuesday evening's opening ceremonies of the conference. Lloyd Knight from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture will fulfill the duties of master of ceremonies and Sommerville will preside over the Education Luncheon on Wednesday. The importance of the Resolution Committee was addressed and the need for the standing committee to manage resolutions in a timely manner. It was pointed out that the chairman of the committee will only be able to read emergency resolutions that may come forward, but no discussion will held by the committee due to the nature of emergency resolutions. The business meeting agenda for Thursday, November 14 was reviewed, and Somerville confirmed that the cover crop tour was on schedule. Award winners and scholarship recipients were reviewed, and the Legislator of the Year Award will be presented to Senator Mark Harris during the legislative session.

Steve Becker ordered a ten-minute break.

2020 IDAHO LEGISLATURE

The board discussed the 2020 Legislative Session and the strategy of IASCD continuing to share district accomplishments. The board will be meeting with individual legislators and making presentations to committees. They will also be contacting those elected officials in their divisions for continued support of conservation in Idaho. The IASCD Display Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday, January 14, to coincide with the IASCD Board Meeting, to be held at the Capitol on January 12 and Idaho Department of Lands on January 13. Steve Becker requested Benjamin Kelly schedule a conference room and lodging for that time. Kelly reviewed the Hyatt Boise location and the price reduction that may be available. The board discussed the increased cost of lodging since the Safari Inn Boise would no longer be available. The IASCD Legislative Social will be the evening of January 13 and the ISWCC budget hearing before JFAC will likely be the same week, but has yet to be determined. With the current 1% holdback on all state agency budgets requested by the governor and 2% decrease for FY 2021, there will likely be little room to advance funding through the ISWCC Budget.

ISWCC LAWSUIT

The board reviewed the complaint filed as plaintiffs by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission on August 19, 2019. The complaint was filed against Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, the individual Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District board supervisors and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District manager as defendants. The board continues to find it very discouraging that the supervisors of the district have been listed individually and in their capacity as private citizens in this complaint. There still seems to be actions taken by the commission that not only challenges the integrity of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, but impugns the integrity of the individual supervisors who support conservation in their communities, donate their time, serve without complaint, are not seeking personal gain and do their duty to keep Idaho's agricultural and natural resources viable for generations to come.

It was reiterated that elected officials who receive benefits illegally should always stand accountable. Local units of government that unknowingly or knowingly benefit from the actions of one individual should always atone for mistakes that were made under their supervision. But when Idahoans decide to serve their communities, run for elected office and place their good names in the public sphere, they should not have to fear that their family name, occupation or privately owned business and personal finances are in jeopardy due to circumstances that may be outside of their control and may have been due to a lack of information. There was unanimous agreement that this litigious approach threatens locally lead, voluntary conservation throughout the state by deterring both future and current supervisors from wanting to serve. Board members expressed their understanding that the commission has had to make hard decisions but also believe that the actions taken in this complaint have well exceeded the bounds of the way that Idahoans who serve expect to be addressed.

ENVIROTHON REPORT

Matt Woodard discussed Envirothon and the report that will be given at the opening banquet. A thank you card from the Envirothon Committee was distributed to the board and the 2019 report (see attached). Woodard reported on the success of the Envirothon program and gave a summary of the 2019 competition. The 2020 Idaho Envirothon competition will be held April 27-28 at the Living Waters Ranch in Challis and the theme will be - Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions.

2020 CONFERENCE

The board reviewed the 2020 Annual Conference that will be held in Burley. Richard Kunau reported that conference sponsors will be contacted, and Benjamin Kelly reported that the facility reservations have been made at the Burley Inn Best Western Hotel. The board discussed tour options and will be evaluating opportunities at the January meeting in Boise. The board requested that the audio-visual services of Brad Elsberg be reserved and special guests be contacted with dates for their schedule. Kunau mentioned that the Division 4 Committee is already moving forward with ideas to make Burley a great conference. Next year's conference will be the 78th annual conference and it will be important that the IASCD historian develop a presentation.

NACD CONFERENCE

The NACD Annual Conference will be held in Las Vegas on February 7-12, 2020. The board discussed who would like to attend. Board members Matt Woodard, Kit Tillotson and Richard Kunau will be attending the conference. Tom Daniel moved to reimburse the three confirmed board members for travel and lodging expenses incurred for the NACD Annual Conference. Seconded. Passed. Board members will book their flights and Benjamin Kelly will secure hotel rooms at the group rate and submit registrations.

WASHINGTON D.C.
FLY-IN IASCD Board members will be traveling to Washington D.C. for meeting the week of February 3-7. The board discussed who would like to attend. Board members Steve Becker, Tom Daniel and Kit Tillotson will be attending at this time. Richard Kunau moved to reimburse the three confirmed board members for travel and lodging expenses incurred in Washington D.C. Seconded. Passed. Steve Becker will begin contacting legislative offices and Benjamin Kelly will secure accommodations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION President Steve Becker called for an Executive Session of the IASCD Board at 11:47 PM. Steve Becker closed the Executive Session at 11:55 PM.

BOARD REORGANIZATION Steve Becker asked for officer nominations for the coming year. Richard Kunau moved to keep the current slate of officers for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Seconded. Passed. The officers will be Steve Becker as President, Matt Woodard as Vice President, Richard Kunau as Treasurer and Mike Somerville as Secretary. The IASCD Board Officers will be announced at the annual business meeting.

RECESS President Steve Becker called the meeting to a recess at 12:15 PM until the time of 8:00 AM on Friday, November 15.

MTG RECONVENED President Steve Becker reconvened the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors at 8:10 AM on Friday, November 15, 2019 at the Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniel, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly.

ISWCC JOINT ME The board revisited the discussion concerning joint meetings between the association and the commission. Last November's joint meeting was heated and frank as was to be expected due to the difficulties created with the lawsuit. The following meeting in January was much more productive, and although everyone did not necessarily approve of Project Tracker and the time and effort it would require, there was constructive and measurable progress made with the reporting platform. Several other issues were addressed including the time frame of contesting decisions made on district allocation reports. June's joint meeting went well but did not really accomplish much. It did require the commission to expend a lot of effort and staffing hours to meet in Burley which may be even more difficult with the governor tightening budgets. It might be wise not to place the commission in a difficult position and instead select an IASCD liaison to attend ISWCC meeting, inviting the commission to do the same. The board agreed this will keep the commission from having to conduct open meetings when there are only discussions and determinations are not being made. By consensus, the board agreed to name Mike Somerville the IASCD liaison to ISWCC, with the option of any IASCD Board of Director to participate in ISWCC meetings at any time. IASCD will continue to be in close communication with ISWCC.

ADJOURNMENT The IASCD Board of Directors thanked each other for all their work through conference and their service to conservation in Idaho. President Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 8:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director