



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 15, 16 & 19, 2014  
Red Lion Hotel, Lewiston, Idaho

- CALL TO ORDER President Kit Tillotson called the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors to order at 7:05 AM on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Those present included Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown, Steve Becker, Lynn Bagley, Art Beal, Glen Gier and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Chris Simons (IDEA).
- PRESENT
- 10/3/14 MINUTES APPROVED The board reviewed the agenda and made additions for special guests joining the meeting. The agenda was amended to reflect an 8:00 AM start time for the following day. The minutes of the board of directors meeting held on Monday, November 3, 2014 were distributed for review (see attached). Glen Gier moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed.
- 2014 CONFERENCE Steve Becker discussed the 2014 IASCD Annual Conference and the board reviewed the week's upcoming events in depth (see attached). Provisions were made for invocations and Sunday evening's opening ceremonies of the conference. Kit Tillotson will fulfill the duties of master of ceremonies and Billie Brown will preside over the Education Luncheon on Monday. 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 need to read any emergency resolutions that may come forward but no discussion will held by the committee due to the nature of emergency resolutions, format and time constraints. The business meeting agenda for Tuesday, November 17 was reviewed and adjusted and Becker confirmed that the tour schedule was in good order. A list of award winners and scholarship recipients was distributed to the board (see attached).
- IASCD WEBSITE Kit Tillotson asked the board for their thoughts on the current IASCD website and the possibility of a change in format to allow easier accessibility. The board agreed that it would be beneficial to refurbish the current website and to look at proceeding with a new webhost. Other suggestions included a data base of frequently asked questions, a gallery of the most recent district activities and a more intuitive search model. Steve Becker offered to explore the option of a local high school offering website design as a senior project. If it did not meet the requirement for a senior project IASCD could move forward with alternative measures.
- IDEA MOU Kit Tillotson discussed the annual conference and IASCD's interaction with IDEA. Tillotson expressed his appreciation for help with registration and the minutes during the meeting and explained that

there has been a request from employees on increased participation. IASCD and IDEA could include further participation in the MOU and more annual conference responsibilities can be transferred to corresponding division employees depending on the location of the conference. This would allow every division to contribute and funds could be allocated for the participating division through the MOU.

RECESS

Art Beal moved the board recess at 9:35 PM until the time of 8:00 AM on Sunday, November 16. Seconded. Passed.

MTG RECONVENED

President Kit Tillotson reconvened the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors at 8:05 AM on Sunday, November 16, 2014. Those present included Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown, Steve Becker, Lynn Bagley, Art Beal, Glen Gier and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Rep. Steve Miller (District 26) and Chris Simons (IDEA).

AG ABATEMENT & ONE PLAN

Art Beal updated the board on the current meetings hosted by ISWCC concerning the Ag Pollution Abatement Plan & One Plan. There will be an advisory committee that also serves as a technical and informational committee. The group will not be holding many group meetings but will continue to work on specific sections at a time with email correspondence or conference calls. The board discussed the importance of the plan, IASCD representation and Beal's participation as the IASCD representative on the committee. Beal added that ISWCC will be meeting in the near future to discuss their 5 year plan and requested participation from the board.

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The board discussed the 2015 Legislative Session and the strategy of IASCD in continuing to present district accomplishments. The board will be meeting with individual legislators and making presentations to committees as in the past. The board will also be contacting those elected officials in their divisions for continued support of conservation in Idaho. It was concluded that IASCD will be sharing a short synopsis from districts describing the accomplishments from the previous year's increased funding that will be approximately one to two paragraphs in length.

JANUARY MTG

The board will tentatively be meeting on January 26, 2015 for a board meeting in Boise. Kit Tillotson requested Benjamin Kelly schedule a conference room and lodging for that time. On January 27 IASCD will be hosting displays on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Capitol building for approximately 14 districts and divisions. Tillotson updated the board on the current plans for State Conservationist Jeff Burwell's retirement party on January 10 and that he would be attending on behalf of IASCD.

IASCD WORK PLAN

Kit Tillotson updated the board on IASCD's 5-year work plan and the need for the board to begin to deliberate on possible approaches for the next 5 years. Included would be what the association needs to focus on that will best benefit districts. The board discussed non-traditional funding, capacity building, increased communication, does and don'ts practices when allocating public funds, engaging supervisors, resource inventories, compiling unfunded projects and division specific subcontracting.

## 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 district directory and continues to receive updates from districts. The increased funding from IASCD and the 2013 Conference through the MOU has been allocated towards 4 employee division workshop trainings. Funding from IDEA was also given in support the Land Judging, Forestry and Envirothon contests in the amount of \$450. Simons emphasized the importance of the continued communication between IDEA and IASCD as they move forward. Tillotson thanked Simons for joining the meeting and the support of IDEA.

Rep. Steve Miller joined the meeting at this time.

## DUES REPORT

The current dues report was distributed to the board for review (see attached). The board reviewed the districts that had paid in full and the district that had paid in partial. All 50 districts had completed their dues allocations and all but one district was eligible to vote. The board addressed the importance of serving districts, continuing to build upon the recent progress with elected officials and the significance of remaining in good standing with the legislature.

## 2016 BUDGET

Steve Becker distributed the 2016 Draft Budget to be presented to the membership for review of the board (see attached). Becker addressed the proposed income and expenses as well as the current expenses for conference. The board reviewed the updates, asked questions of Becker and thanked Becker for his hard work on the Budget. The 2016 Draft Budget will be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting for their consideration.

## INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING

Rep. Steve Miller was welcomed to the meeting and asked to provide his thoughts and suggestions to the association. Miller thanked the board for their support, their work with elected officials during the 2014 Legislative Session and requested that the conservation community continue conversations with their legislators. It is important to demonstrate what can be done with increased funding and it would be beneficial to convey where last year's increase to districts was appropriated. Miller continued that the more specific districts and the association can be in their description will be helpful. This may be in the form of a letter or face to face. The board asked questions of Miller and addressed the need to report on where increased funds have been distributed. Billie Brown moved to request a summary from each district of how the increased funds were appropriated in their district. Seconded. Passed.

## EXECUTIVE DIR. REPORT

Kit Tillotson requested an update from Benjamin Kelly on current issues of the association. Kelly reported the latest developments on the proposed rule defining "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. IASCD has been making frequent updates to the membership and will be informing districts on the board's most recent actions at the annual business meeting. Kit Tillotson conveyed the actions of the NACD Pacific Region at the September regional meeting in Portland as well as the strong opposition from the Wyoming Association. IASCD submitted comments in opposition to the proposed rule defining Waters of the United States and NACD ultimately took the same position with urging from Idaho, Wyoming

and other western associations.

An update on the Local Government & Special District Registry requirements that will be administered by the Legislative Services Office (LSO) was also addressed. Kelly summarized the most recent developments including correspondence with the LSO Audit Director. It is still unclear what data formats will be accepted or how accessible the information will be. The office had expected the portal to be ready by the end of September for testing but it has been delayed. The Conference Planning Committee has scheduled the Managing Auditor, James Combo (LSO), of the audit division to present on the audit process and new developments with the online registry. The reporting requirements were discussed and the necessity for districts to register on the portal regardless of budget structure and fulfillment of an annual, biannual or no annual audit. The board emphasized IASCD's involvement with the process and for the association to stay in front of the issue.

#### POLICY MANUAL

Kit Tillotson requested the board review the ISCD Policy Manual prior to the January meeting for possible changes. The manual may be addressed only a section at a time depending on time.

#### NACD CONFERENCE

The NACD Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans on February 1-4, 2015. Board members Kit Tillotson and Billie Brown will be attending the conference. Tillotson elicited ideas for the live auction item from Idaho. Steve Becker moved to reimburse two board members and the executive director for travel and lodging expenses incurred for the NACD Annual Conference. Seconded. Passed. Billie Brown moved to submit payment for dues to NACD for 2015. Seconded. Passed.

#### 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.

#### BOARD REORGINIZATION

Kit Tillotson asked the board for nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The board discussed the current officers. Art Beal moved to keep the current slate of officers for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Seconded. Passed. The board discussed the vacancy left by Rick Rodgers for the position of Secretary. Steve Becker moved that the name of Art Beal be submitted as IASCD Treasurer. Seconded. Passed.

The board was reminded to submit travel vouchers to the IASCD office for remittance.

#### RECESS

The meeting was called to recess at 10:45 AM until the time of 8:00 AM on Wednesday, November 19.

MTG RECONVENED President Kit Tillotson reconvened the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors to 8:10 AM on Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Those present included Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown, Steve Becker, Lynn Bagley, Art Beal, Glen Gier and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Chris Simons (IDEA), Jeff Burwell (NRCS), Leon Slichter (ISWCC), Dave Radford (ISWCC) and Teri Murrison (ISWCC).

2014 CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS The board reflected on the 2014 Annual Conference and thanked all those who prepared and participated in the event. The agenda, tour and trade show received positive reactions and the board would prefer to hold the IASCD board meeting on Saturday evening and Sunday morning dependent on travel arrangements. Commissioner Leon Slichter thanked the board for an excellent conference and enjoyed the concurrent sessions.

ISWCC UPDATE Kit Tillotson welcomed ISWCC Administrator, Teri Murrison for a partners report. Murrison discussed the most recent meetings of the commission, the Ag Pollution Abatement Plan and the One Plan. The ISWCC will be meeting at the Springhill Marriot in the near future to discuss their 5 year plan and requested participation from the board. ISWCC commissioners discussed issues that will be addressed.

NRCS UPDATE Kit Tillotson welcomed NRCS State Conservationist, Jeff Burwell for a partners report. Burwell thanked the board for providing time and for the continued relationship between NRCS and IASCD. Burwell reported that he will be retiring from NRCS at the end of the year and thanked IASCD for the honor of serving with them and for the recognition he received during the conference. He also addressed the influence that IASCD can have in his replacement and that the NRCS Regional Conservationist will be in Boise and available for meetings. Burwell took questions from the board. Burwell stressed the importance of conveying IASCD's desire for a state conservationist that understands western issues. The board discussed import issues that an incoming state conservationist should be familiar with. Tillotson thanked Burwell for joining the meeting and wished him well in retirement.

ADJOURNMENT Art Beal moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted

Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director