



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
June 12, 2015
Boise Hotel, 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 Friday,

PRESENT

June 12, 2015. Those present included Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown, Steve Becker, Lynn Bagley, Art Beal, Glen Gier and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Norman Wright, Jerry Trebesch, Leon Slichter, Teri Murrison and Delwyne Treftz (ISWCC), Curtis Elkie (NRCS), Robbie Taylor, Chris Simons, Lisa Transtrom, Pegi Long and Joyce Smith (IDEA), Dennis Tanikuni (IFBF) and Nic Gibson (AMG staff).

NRCS UPDATE

Kit Tillotson welcomed State Conservationist Curtis Elkie (NRCS) to the meeting. Elkie thanked the board for the opportunity and reviewed his travels through the state since his installment on May 4. He included his background coming from Brookings, S.D. where he has served as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations the past six years and background includes working in the private sector for 17 years in agriculture sales and management followed by another 17 years working for the NRCS. He has had multi-state experience with NRCS starting as a Soil Conservation Technician in North Dakota, then as a Soil Conservationist and District Conservationist in Oklahoma where he dealt with forestry and rangeland management. He was promoted to Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Massachusetts. Following that was his most recent tenure as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in South Dakota.

Elkie stated that he puts a priority on new funding opportunities and updated the board concerning 2014 Farm Bill programs. He reported that there was \$13.3 million expensed through the Environment Incentive program with a total of 278 contracts entered into and that there will be an extra \$725 thousand in drought funding for the year. The Conservation Stewardship program saw acres decrease and there has been two proposals funded through the RCPP thus far and proposals are due on July 8.

JOINT MTG

President Kit Tillotson and Chairman Norman Wright called the joint meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors and the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission to order.

NATIONAL MOA

The two boards discussed the National Conservation Planning Partnership and their request to state organizations (see attached). The partnership includes both NACD and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies and is an effort to outline paths to enhance collective and individual work. The request is modeled after the national MOA signed by representatives of the National Conservation Planning Partnership at the 2015 NACD Annual Meeting. Steve Becker moved that Billie Brown draft language extrapolated from the National MOA and current State MOU for review at the IASCD Conference meeting in Boise. Seconded. Passed.

ISWCC 2017 Budget Teri Murrison and Steve Becker summarized previous conversations between the association and commission concerning possible contracting for TMDL work. Murrison gave an update on the ISDA / BLM rangeland grazing allotments MOA that was signed in 2014 and a request from ISDA to include the commission in assistance to photo monitoring by the districts. Becker led discussion on the possibility of a State Conservation Innovation Grant in the future. The response from the commissioners included a priority on photo monitoring or the possibility of state CIG grants and a committee will be put together to explore how to proceed. Billie Brown moved to proceed with an exploratory committee to assist ISDA with rangeland photo monitoring. Seconded. Passed. Steve Becker moved to support \$200,000 for the establishment of a state grant program in the 2017 ISWCC allocation. Seconded. Passed. The joint meeting was adjourned at this time.

IDEA REPORT Kit Tillotson welcomed Robbie Taylor to the meeting. Taylor thanked the board for providing time and for the continued relationship between IDEA and IASCD. IDEA is pleased to help with the district directory and is close to completing the updates from districts. The funding from IASCD and the 2014 Conference through the MOU has been allocated towards employee workshop trainings for each division. Taylor went through the 2014 the IDEA report on accomplishments and annual work plan for 2014 (see attached). Billie Brown and Taylor had worked on a new draft MOU between the two associations to better clarify roles and discussed conference participation. Art Beal moved to approve the 2016 MOU agreement between IDEA and IASCD. Seconded. Passed. Tillotson thanked Taylor for joining the meeting and the support of IDEA.

ENVIROTHON REPORT Kit Tillotson welcomed Lisa Transtrom to the meeting and asked for an Envirothon report from Lynn Bagley and Transtrom. A thank you card received by the IASCD office from the Envirothon Committee was passed to the board (see attached). Bagley and Transtrom reported on the success of the Envirothon program and gave a summary of the 2015 competition. The 2015 competition was held on May 4 and 5 at the Living Waters Ranch in Challis, Idaho with the topic of Urban/Community Forestry. The Homedale High School team, sponsored by Canyon Soil Conservation District, placed first in the competition and will be eligible to move on to the national competition. The North American Envirothon competition will be held on July 27-August 2, 2015 at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Nationals will cost a little under \$10 thousand for Idaho's participation and next year's Idaho competition topic will be Invasive Species.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT The board reviewed the year-end financial report and Steve Becker answered questions (see attached). Becker reported on IASCD's positive ending balance for the fiscal year and recommendations were given for the LGIP account including memberships charge to increase the account. Art Beal moved to approve the FY 2015 Year-end Financial Report. Seconded. Passed.

FY 2016 BUDGET The board reviewed the FY 2016 Budget and set the 2017 itemized income and expenses to be presented to member districts at fall division meetings with approval to follow at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Boise (see attached). Line item additions were included to clearly reflect association expenditures as well the addition of the LGIP account at the bottom of the budget. Glenn Gier moved to accept the FY 2017 Proposed Budget. Seconded. Passed. Kit Tillotson recessed the meeting at this time for lunch.

IASCD WEBSITE Kit Tillotson welcomed Nic Gibson from Benjamin Kelly's office and the board reviewed the website proposals presented. Items specified in the

websites design and options included scrolling pictures of all 6 divisions, banner announcements, a donate icon, larger font, “tell us what you think” page and calendar. The suggestion was made to offer a contest for an outstanding picture within each division, with the 6 winners receiving one complimentary banquet tickets. Billie Brown moved the 6 divisions submit pictures for the website contest and 6 banquet tickets be issued. Seconded. Passed. For the selection of the award, each division will send their nominees pictures to the outlined division director:

Division I to Division V
Division II to Division IV
Division III to Division VI
Division IV to Division II
Division V to Division I
Division VI to Division III

POLICY MANUAL

Kit Tillotson asked Art Beal to review the IASCD Policy Manual. Beal walked through the policy manual and offered proposed updates with additions made from the board (see attached). Billie Brown moved that Art Beal draft a resolution of the proposed changes for review of the board. Seconded. Passed.

FALL DIVISION MTG DATES

The board set fall division meeting dates for October and are as follows:

Division I	Benewah	October 9	(am)	
Division II	Clearwater	October 8	(12 pm)	Orifino
Division III	Elmore	October 13	(1:30 pm)	Mt Home
Division IV	Twin Falls	October 22	(2:30 pm)	Twin Falls, Turf Club
Division V	Power	October 28	(4:00 pm)	
Division VI	Custer	October 29		

CARD APPROVAL

Benjamin Kelly updated the board on options for credit cards that had been discussed on a previous conference call. The board agreed that the best option included issuance from Wells Fargo under IASCD’s current account. Art Beal moved to issue cards to Kit Tillotson, Billie Brown and Steve Becker with a limit equivalent to the Executive Director card limit. Seconded. Passed.

EXECUTIVE DIR. UPDATE

Kit Tillotson requested an update from Benjamin Kelly. Kelly reviewed the last few months as well as Spring Division meetings. The board had previously discussed the April 9 meeting with Regional Conservationist for the West, Astor Boozer and Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) tied to current farm bill payments. He recapped his travels to the State Envirothon Contest in Challis and the State Forestry Contest in Carreywood. Kelly updated the board on the 2015 Conference at the Riverside Hotel and the board addressed the agenda in for November.

Kit Tillotson called the board to executive session. Benjamin Kelly left the meeting at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIR. CONTRACT

The board exited executive session and Kelly returned to the meeting. Steve Becker moved to enter into a contract with Kelly Associates for FY 2016 in the amount of \$39,000 (4% increase). Seconded. Passed. Steve Becker moved to provide a 10% incentive plan for the Executive Director for new sponsorships and supporting partnerships. Seconded. Passed.

IASCD AGREEMENTS

The board discussed the current MOU’s and agreements that are in place as well as future updates that may need to be included. The board also outlined a few updates that they would like to address including if NRCS

had a template MOU between state associations and the agency. Steve Becker has been working with the IASCD accountant concerning possible agreements and tax status implications that are involved. IASCD grant agreements with districts will need to be addressed on a case by case basis and will need to review specific agreements.

LETTERS OF
SUPPORT

By consensus the board agreed to send a letter of support for the nomination of Art Beal for the Governor's Award for ~~Education~~ (amended) Longevity in February. The board reviewed federal invasive weed legislation supported by the Governor, Idaho Weed Control Association and the Healthy Habitats Coalition. Billie Brown moved to send a letter of support to Congressman Simpson. Seconded. Passed.

NACD PACIFIC
REGION CONF.

Kit Tillotson reviewed the NACD Summer meeting being held in Spokane on July 10-13. The event will include representatives from all NACD membership; with Tillotson representing IASCD in his position as Region President and Billie Brown representing Idaho as delegate. Steve Becker moved IASCD provide travel, lodging and registration reimbursement for the Executive Director. Seconded. Passed.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the board of directors meeting held on January 26, March 30 and April 20 were distributed for review (see attached). Steve Becker moved the minutes of January 26, March 30 and April 20 be approved. Seconded. Passed.

ISWCC
APPOINTMENT

Benjamin relayed a conversation he had with the Governor's office and the need to fill the position currently held by Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commissioner, Roger Stutzman, whose term ends this year. IASCD membership appreciates the consideration of regional representation on the Commission and that the administration has encouraged that recommended names come from south-central Idaho. The board placed names in the order of preference to send to the Governor. Steve Becker moved IASCD submit the names of Terry Kramer, Glen Gier and Barry Bollwinkel for ISWCC Commissioner. Seconded. Passed.

BY-LAWS UPDATE

Glen Gier updated and reviewed the proposed by-law changes to *ARTICLE XI* (Dues) and *ARTICLE XII* (Membership), as directed by the membership (see attached). The changes will be submitted in resolution form for the 2015 Business Meeting. By consensus the board accepted the proposed by-law changes.

ADJOURNMENT

An IASCD conference call meeting will be held on June 29. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director

ACTION ITEMS

- Billie draft partners MOA by November
- Benjamin year-end financial to districts in July
- Steve discussing district grants with accountant
- Benjamin add division pictures to awards for conference
- Benjamin preparing website
- Beal draft resolution of policy manual changes
- Benjamin issuing credit cards
- Letters for Beal and Weed Control support and ISWCC appointment
- Glen draft resolution on by-law changes