



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2020 - 8:00 AM
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown - 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 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, Boise, Idaho. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Curtis Elke and Chris Hatch.
- PRESENT**
- 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 12 & 13, 2020 had been sent and were distributed for review (see attached). Kit Tillotson moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed. The minutes of the board of directors' conference call meeting held on February 26, 2020 had been sent and were distributed for review (see attached). Kit Tillotson moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed. The minutes of the board of directors' conference call meeting held on March 9, 2020 were distributed for review (see attached). Kit Tillotson moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed. The minutes of the board of directors meeting held on June 4, 2020 were distributed for review (see attached). Kit Tillotson the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed.
- BUDGET REVIEW** Richard Kunau and Benjamin Kelly reviewed the current financial report for the period of July 1, 2019 - June 1, 2020 (see attached). Kunau reported that it is projected that IASCD will have a positive ending balance for the fiscal year and recommendations were offered for the LGIP account. Kit Tillotson moved to approve the July 1, 2019 - June 1, 2020 financial report. Seconded. Passed. The Board reviewed the fiscal year 2021 budget (see attached). Kit Tillotson moved that \$5,000 be moved to the LGIP account. Seconded. Passed.
- FY 2022 BUDGET** The board reviewed the FY 2020 financial and FY 2021 budget and made recommendations on itemized income and expenses for the FY 2022 budget to be set by the IASCD membership at conference (see attached). Line items were reviewed to clearly reflect association expenditures. By consensus, the IASCD Board approved the FY 2022 proposed budget.

FALL DIVISION
MTGS

The board set the fall division meeting dates as follows:

Division I	Kootenai-Shoshone SWCD	October 14, 2020
Division II	Clearwater SWCD	October 15, 2020
Division III	Owyhee CD	October 13, 2020
Division IV	Gooding SCD	October 20, 2020
Division V	South Bingham SCD	October 21, 2020
Division VI	Clark SCD	October 22, 2020

NRCS REPORT

Steve Becker welcomed NRCS State Conservationist Curtis Elke for his report. Elke reviewed and gave the current updates on Farm Bill programs, as well as the strategy entitled The Cheatgrass Challenge. Cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses, such as, medusahead and ventenata, are taking over sagebrush rangelands, increasing wildfire size and frequency, reducing forage productivity, and threatening wildlife habitat and rural economies. Lack of coordinated action is making our working lands less productive for each passing generation. Science shows that invasive species control is more effective and cost-efficient when done early, before infestations become widespread, and when management responses are informed by the condition of the surrounding area. Idaho partners have come together to devise a new statewide strategy that provides a all-lands vision for implementing the right actions, in the right places, at the right time.

Elke also updated on the status of NRSCS and their continued Covid response. The Board asked questions concerning the NRCS MOU and the timing for districts. They also conveyed their position that it is understood this is required by Washington D.C., but each district is autonomous, and they will have to make the decision to sign on a district level and cannot be decided by IASCD. Elke reported that he has had a good response from districts and is working to wrap up the last of the MOUs.

Elke closed his report by voicing his pleasure at the increased staffing level of NRCS and that positions were being filled in good time. NRCS had a total funding of \$8,095,801 this year and ended by answering other questions from the board.

ISWCC BUDGET

The board discussed the possibility of a request to the Governor's office in light of the supervisor's meeting on June 12 and the announced holdback by the Governor for the ISWCC FY 2021 budget. As a result of the budgetary uncertainty the ISWCC budget may be rescinded by up to 14.4%, and ISWCC plans to limit non-district related and program support related expenditures. The holdback will ensure that sufficient Trustee and Benefit Funds remain to satisfy the possible 14.4% rescission in FY 2021. ISWCC will distribute Trustee and Benefit funds as follows:

- July 2020 - distribute \$8,500/District base and \$2,000/District operations allocations. Holdback \$50,000 capacity building funds to be distributed in Spring 2021.

- November 2020 - distribute District match allocations, holding back an additional 5.4% of match allocations until Spring 2021, should there be no further Governor-ordered rescissions

The IASCD Board will be looking to the subcommittee recommendations prior to the IASCD Business Meeting in November. A number of legislators have advised that with the current holdbacks, it would not be necessary to submit increases at this time.

SUPERVISOR'S MTG

President Steve Becker summarized the pros and cons of the supervisors at the meeting and reviewed that a subcommittee was appointed. The supervisor group suggested that there be 5 to 7 supervisors on the committee to get something started and 5 supervisors volunteered at that time. At the meeting, a total 34 Supervisors and 29 Districts were represented including the 5 IASCD Board members. Those volunteering to serve on the subcommittee to develop a plan were Steve Miller, Art Beal, Kevin Koester, Elaine Sonnen and Dave Huggins. The Board agreed that there was many different points raised by supervisors and that the subcommittee will need to get suggestions to the IASCD Board this fall. Benjamin Kelly will be sending out the handouts, notes and the letters from the meeting to all districts by email.

IDAHO ENVIROTHON

The Idaho Envirothon committee was pleased to announce that the Idaho Envirothon 2020 would be held this year virtually. They had modified the program to provide a fully "online" event for students. Participation was slightly down but considering Covid, the committee was pleased at the turnout. The NCF Envirothon announced that it would not be holding the International event this year so Idaho will have to be looking forward to the opportunity to send an Idaho team to New Brunswick, Canada in 2021.

2020 CONFERENCE

Richard Kunau reported on the Division IV Conference Committee's work on the annual conference. They have put together a number of tours to choose from including a robotic dairy tour, Amalgamated Sugar factory tour and a wetlands tour. Benjamin Kelly discussed the keynote speaker Dave Holtom, CEO Valley Wide Co-Op & Valley Agronomics, and the accompanying tour at a Valley Wide facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director