



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 12 & 13, 2020  
State Capital Bldg., Rm WW17 - 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 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the Idaho State Capitol Building, Boise, Idaho. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniel, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly.
- PRESENT**
- 10/12&15/19 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 Tuesday, November 12 & 15, 2019 were distributed for review (see attached). Tom Daniel moved the minutes be approved as printed. Seconded. Passed.
- BUDGET REVIEW** Richard Kunau and Benjamin Kelly reviewed the 2019 year-end financial report distributed at fall division meetings and the 2021 Budget accepted by the membership at the annual business meeting (see attached). Kunau, Steve Becker and Kelly reviewed the July 1, 2019 - January 10, 2020 financial report (see attached). The board discussed IASCD insurance coverage and what is currently being expensed. Becker noted the separate legislative social account and that IASCD will send out additional correspondence concerning the function. The board reflected on last year's legislative social held in January. The last three socials provided a more accurate reflection of expenses and a better idea of how many legislators and district supervisors will attend year to year. Funds for the LGIP Account will be determined at the June meeting in Boise and current plans include increasing the account over time to include a one-year reserve for the association. Auxiliary support will be sent and the IASCD dues notice will be sent in July. Matt Woodard moved to approve the July 1, 2019 - January 10, 2020 financial report. Seconded. Passed.
- UPCOMING EVENTS** The Board of Directors reviewed the dates and times of events over the next few months which include:
- January 13 ISWCC Meeting  
Legislative Appreciation Social
  - January 14 Capitol Displays
  - January 17 JFAC Budget Hearing
  - February 1-7 IASCD Washington D.C. Fly-in
  - February 7-12 NACD Annual Conference
  - February 17,18 Idaho Ag Summit
- IASCD will be hosting the fourth legislative appreciation social and the Conservation Displays at the Capitol on the second floor of the Idaho State Capitol on Tuesday. Representatives from the board will also be meeting with legislators throughout the next few days to discuss past efforts with WQPA and the request for \$2,500,000 to be distributed through the ISWCC budget equally to all 50 districts. Legislative Committee Reports in conjunction with ISWCC reports have not been finalized. Board members reviewed projects that he would be willing to present on in 2021. Mike Somerville and Steve Becker agreed to give reports before the legislature during the 2020 session. The board discussed the association's past

involvement with the Larry Branen Ag Summit and availability for the upcoming conference on February 17 and 18. Matt Woodard moved to approve reimbursement to board members willing to attend the Ag Summit and Strolling Super with Idaho Legislators. Seconded. Passed.

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. Kit Tillotson moved to reimburse board members for travel and lodging expenses incurred for the NACD Summer Meeting and NACD Pacific Region meeting. Seconded. Passed. Board members have booked their flights and Benjamin Kelly secured hotel rooms at the group rate and submitted registrations.

WASHINGTON D.C. IASCD Board members will be traveling to Washington D.C. for meeting the week FLY-IN of February 1-7. 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 has been contacting legislative offices and Benjamin Kelly has secured accommodations.

2020 CONFERENCE Richard Kunau reviewed the 2020 Annual Conference that will be held on November 10-13 at the Best Western Burley Inn, Burley. Kunau reported that the Conference Planning Committee will be going at full speed, already has a number of ideas, conference sponsors will be contacted and facility reservations have been made but have been finalized for next year. The board discussed tour options, shuttles and speakers for the concurrent sessions. The board reviewed the 2019 business meeting minutes and possible updates that could be made on the agenda for 2020 including the request from ISWCC to hold the listening session prior to the buffet on the first evening.

ENVIROTHON Matt Woodard discussed Envirothon and the updated report from the committee. A REPORT 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 what is expected at this time for the 2020 competition. The 2020 Idaho Envirothon competition will be held April 27-28 at the Living Waters Ranch in Challis, Idaho.

STATE FORESTRY Tom Daniel reviewed the 2019 State Forestry Contest and the report and thank you REPORT flyer sent from the committee. The 2020 Idaho State Forestry Contest will be held on May 14 in Careywood, Idaho. Tom Daniel moved to support the State Soil & Land Contest, State Forestry Contest and Envirothon for the coming year. Seconded. Passed.

SPING DIVISION The board set the spring division meeting dates as follows: MEETINGS

Division I	Boundary	March 27	
Division II	Nez Perce	May 8	(tentative)
Division III	Weiser	February 25	
Division IV	Gooding	March 12	
Division V	Power	March 18	Pocatello, Fish & Game
Division VI	West Side	February 4	Idaho Falls, County Fairgrounds

## RECESS

President Steve Becker called the meeting to a recess at 4:30 PM.

## MTG RECONVENED

President Steve Becker reconvened the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Idaho Department of Lands, Boise office. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniel, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly. Also joining the meeting was Dustin Miller (IDL) Curtis Elke NRCS, Teri Murrison (ISWCC) and Robbie Taylor (IDEA).

## IDL REPORT

Steve Becker welcomed Idaho Department of Lands Director, Dustin Miller and thanked Miller for hosting IASCD. Miller thanked the Board for their continued partnership with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and his appreciation for districts. Miller offered an update on their agencies mission and current projects. Miller also shared their current updated project video.

## 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. We know that managing the health of perennial plants, especially perennial grasses, can be done. Negative impacts of annual grass invasion continue to increase as our application of this knowledge has largely been too reactive, inconsistent, and small scale. 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. 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.

## IDEA REPORT

Steve Becker welcomed Robbie Taylor to the meeting. Taylor 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. Taylor reviewed the total income from the raffle and 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. Becker thanked Taylor for joining the meeting. Taylor left the meeting at this time.

#### ISWCC REPORT

Steve Becker welcomed Teri Murrison to the meeting. Murrison updated the board and answered questions on agenda items that will be covered at the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting starting at 12:00 PM. Murrison announced that Wendy Pratt had been selected by the Governor to serve on the commission. Becker thanked Murrison for joining the meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director