



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, October 22, 2020 - 7:00 PM  
Conference Call**

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Becker called the meeting of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board of Directors conference call to order at 7:00 PM on October 22, 2020. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniel, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly.

PRESENT

IASCD  
RECCOMENDATION

Steve Becker requested feedback on getting the proposal out to districts since the board had not heard a response from the Governor's office at this time. There needs to be a clear statement of why there is a need in proceeding this way. Administrative time and expenses to the delivery of voluntary conservation need to be reduced. This benefits Idaho by making more money available to be spent on the ground. The system needs to be one that recognizes the power of the locally elected officials and that they should be included when conservation projects are proposed within their boundaries. With the elimination of reporting issues and redirection of funding to the local level a system of more independent districts is achievable.

It is time to change the way voluntary conservation is delivered in Idaho and our vision needs to be one of creating more independence, not dependence. There is a true lack of sustainability in the current funding method and continues to be bureaucratic mission and budget creep by state agencies in many areas of conservation. The true goal is to restore stability, build a minimum capacity or baseline for all districts to the point that they can operate as an independent entity in the counties they reside and carry out our locally lead mission. The leadership provided by local conservation district's result in projects being identified, partnerships being organized, funding raised for those projects, follow up and completion reports being developed. Under our current circumstances that is not happening, and it needs to change. For many districts, the above can be accomplished without involvement of the ISWCC. A cover letter will be sent with the material for the annual business meeting.

BUSINESS MTG

The board discussed a zoom option for the annual business meeting and what they were hearing from districts. There had been a request at the fall division I and division IV meeting to include video conferencing. The drawback is that if the membership needs to go into executive session there is no available option with a

zoom. There are also logistical concerns that will make it difficult but may have to be accommodated for. Tom Daniel moved a zoom option for the November 12 annual business meeting in Boise. Seconded. Passed. Richard Kunau moved to hire Brad Elsberg to provide technical coordination of the annual business meeting. Seconded. Passed. Kit Tillotson moved that voting credentials be sent to the IASCD office by November 10 for those participating in zoom and must be on camera to vote. Seconded. Passed.

The IASCD Board will meet at 1:00 PM on November 11.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director