



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2021 - 6:00 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 6:00 PM on April 19, 2021. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Mike Somerville, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly.
- PRESENT**
- IASCD SUPERVISOR MTG** Steve Becker requested feedback on having a IASCD supervisors meeting in June to review the 2021 Legislative Session. A number of different pieces of legislation had been passed and were to the benefit of districts or will affect how they do business. H297 and S1145 will need to be discussed in detail. S1145 was the ISWCC Budget appropriation for FY 2022 that was signed into law by the Governor and will go into effect July 1, 2021. At the Joint Finance and Appropriations budget hearing the committee approved the request from IASCD to increase funding in the amount of \$200,000 to be distributed equally between all 50 districts. Representative Caroline Troy made the motion and has continued to work hard to push for more District funding. Also included was the re-instatement of 1 full time position with ISWCC for support of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP in Idaho is designed to address water shortages in the Eastern Snake River Plain, an area that extends from King Hill to Ashton.
- ISWCC FY 2022 BUDGET**
- ISWCC APPOINTMENTS** H297 was held in House Ag Affairs Committee by the Chairman of the committee. There had been considerable discussion since it had been printed but the bill did not go forward and it was suggested that it be talked about over the interim. Once the bill was held, the only movement would have been if legislators moved without IASCD on board. There was some discussion from legislators wanting re-work H297 and run it as another bill but IASCD advised against it. There were other conversations with IASCD and District Supervisors that did not want the bill to go forward this session. IASCD conveyed that we did not think it would be a good idea because the same opposition would be to any other version drafted.
- SUPERVISOR MTG SET** With the end of the legislative session drawing to a close and some of the spring division meetings not being held, the board agreed to offer to hold a meeting to review the last few months and discuss further with Districts to get more direction. IASCD will be hosting a June 9 meeting in Boise and by Zoom. The meeting is tentatively set for the afternoon of June 9 to allow for less than a day's travel. The

board will meet in Boise on June 8 for their summer meeting. Kit Tillotson moved the approval of IASCD Board travel and reimbursement expenses. Seconded. Passed. The suggested hotels were the Hyatt, Grove Hotel and Hilton Garden Inn. Benjamin Kelly will secure a meeting room for the June 9 meeting in Boise and will send a save the date email with an update to follow once a location has been confirmed and Zoom information has been set up.

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

Mike Sommerville gave an update on ISWCC technical assistance and some of the information he requested from the commission. There is a true lack of sustainability in the current technical assistance structure and there continues to be bureaucratic mission creep. 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 always happening when technical assistance is so needed. Sommerville will plan to provide information to the board once it is received.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director