



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, May 26, 2022 - 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 Thursday, May 26, 2022. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Bob Flagor, Devin Fielding, Joan Cloonan and Benjamin Kelly.

**PRESENT**

**U OF I CLIMATE  
SMART UPDATE**

Steve Becker reviewed the submission information sent from the University of Idaho that had been included in the Climate Smart proposal to USDA (see attached). The project overview included the support for the goals of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities National Funding Opportunity by 1) increasing adoption of climate-smart (CS) practices on 160 farms in Idaho through the provision of financial and technical assistance to producers, 2) spurring productivity and the sustainability of the growing number of farms owned/operated by underserved producers, 3) empowering producers to participate in and benefit from market-based CS opportunities by creating an efficient, cost-effective method for monitoring, reporting and verification (MMRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and tracking of benefits through supply chains, 4) quantifying the impacts of CS practices on system outcomes such as profitability, soil health, and pests and beneficial organisms, 5) working with partners to create markets for CS commodities that reflect consumer demand and benefit the continued development and adoption of CS practices, and 6) widely disseminating project findings. This project will focus on seven key commodities in Idaho with national and international markets: barley, beef, chickpea, potatoes, sugar, wheat, and hops.

**CLIMATE SMART  
FUNDING  
ALLOCATION**

The board discussed what priorities districts may be interested in as well as the approaches that would be helpful to getting conservation on the ground and funding to the growers who participate. The practices will be important to what districts can help with and all 50 districts will be eligible to participate if they choose. In the proposal, the University of Idaho submitted that projects will direct 75% of its funding directly to producers and 25% to supporting activities. Farmer incentives will be distributed by subcontracted partners to their existing producer client networks. Project funds not going directly to producers will cover administrative costs and costs of monitoring, modeling, verification, reporting, providing technical support to producers, surveys and focus groups to delineate supply

chain implications, structure and marketing implications, evaluating CS farming sustainability, and developing resources to support continuing adoption. This project includes 20 non-funded partners who have pledged to share their time and expertise to help meet the project goal.

**DIVISION  
COMMISSION  
APPOINTMENTS**

The board reviewed the divisions that will need to have names submitted to the Governor for the updated commissioner appointments for ISWCC. Division I, IV and V will have seated commissioners depending on if the Division IV commissioner is re-appointed or not. IASCD will contact the Governor's office but will solicit names in case they need to be re-submitted. Currently there are 5 commission members, and the increase would be 7 appointments made by the governor. This allows the conservation districts to put forward names to the governor to choose from for 6 of the positions, with the governor to choose the 7th at large. The reason for the change is inside of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts there are 6 divisions covering the entire state and would allow each division to submit names to the governor with regional representation in mind. Names can be discussed at the next meeting.

**JUNE BOARD  
MEETING**

The IASCD June Board Meeting will be held on June 16 in Boise at the Hyatt Place. Rooms have been reserved and the meeting will be held in the morning. IDEA and ISWCC will be holding their meetings on June 15 in Boise. Joan Cloonan and other board members that will be in town, will attend and Bob Flagor will be attending the IDEA meeting.

**WQPA FUNDING**

Steve Becker discussed a few concerns that have arisen in the Water Quality Program for Agriculture program and how funding is processed. Delwyne Trefz with ISWCC was made aware to help address the possible concerns but the timing issue needs to be considered. Some of the concerns are that projects are being awarded early summer of 2022 but funding isn't available until July of 2022, and the project must be completed by June of 2023. If the project is approved but not completed within this timeframe, then funds may need to be returned to the state because they hadn't been spent, even though they were committed. Due to the thriving economy, lack of available contractors, the challenge of supplies and availability, it may be advantageous to send the awarded funds of the projects to the administering agent to manage and administer in cooperation with the commission. The board will plan to review the timing with ISWCC at the June meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director