



**Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, September 11, 2020 - 2:30 PM  
Holiday Inn - 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 2:30 PM on Friday, September 11, 2020 at the Holiday Inn, Boise, Idaho. Those present included Steve Becker, Matt Woodard, Richard Kunau, Mike Somerville, Tom Daniels, Kit Tillotson and Benjamin Kelly.
- PRESENT**
- FRANKLIN SWCD** The board discussed that there had been a settlement between the Franklin SWCD and ISWCC and that some districts had already agreed send the funding back. The board will not be taking a position on returning funds and it will be up to division directors on how they would like to approach the issue.
- FALL DIVISION MTGS** The current fall division meeting dates have been set but there has been some divisions that would rather not meet by video conference. Division I is yet to be determined but are planning to meet on October 14, 2020. Division II will not meet on October 15, 2020. Division III was looking at a zoom call as an alternative on October 13, 2020 but may be cancelled due to enough supervisors not interested in meeting electronically. Division IV will be meeting by zoom on October 20, 2020. Division V will not be meeting on October 21, 2020. Division VI will be meeting October 22, 2020 by zoom call.
- 2020 CONFERENCE** The board reviewed the agenda for the Annual IASCD Conference and Richard Kunau informed the board of the ongoing discussion by the Division IV Conference Committee. Based on comments board members were hearing from supervisors and suggestions from the Division IV Conference Committee, the board felt it is best to cancel the 2020 IASCD Conference in Burley on November 10-13. A number of critical parts of the conference would be negatively affected and not be beneficial enough to ask District Supervisors and Administrators to contribute towards out of District funds. There is also those that have requested assurance that masks would always be worn or they could not attend. It was recognized that substantial Covid precautions are vital for some more than others, but IASCD cannot make any promises to that effect. Coupled with very few of the partners being able to attend, the possibility of presentations being cancelled, tour buses that require social distancing seating, banquets being altered and not being able to interact normally with friends, it looks like a significant enough portion of Supervisors and Administrators were not going to make it. Richard Kunau moved to cancel the 2020 IASCD Annual Conference. Seconded. Passed.
- ANNUAL BUSINESS MTG** The board discussed the annual business meeting and the need to not keep the subcommittee recommendations out there. There needs

to be a resolve to move forward with whatever the membership decides. The board agreed to hold the IASCD Annual Business Meeting on November 12 in Boise and a Social the night of November 11 for those who want to connect. If it is necessary by November, there may need to be a video conferencing option though the logistics will be difficult.

SUBCOMMITTEE  
PROPOSAL

Steve Becker asked each board member to give their thoughts on the subcommittee proposal and if or where they believed it should be modified. The board did not feel comfortable shifting positions or contracting positions through IASCD that would shift monitoring districts to the association. Districts are individual entities and should always be treated as such. The IASCD Board recommendation is as follows:

**Dissolve Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission -**  
Modernizing Conservation in Idaho

Office of the Governor - 1 Full Time Liaison Position

- To help Districts to fully understand roles
- To help acquire statutory obligations
- Liaison to further leverage funds, submitted budget info to JFAC
- Assist Districts with Fiscal, Budgetary duties - coordination with (LSO)
- Tasked with the review of all accountability benchmarks submitted by Districts
  - If a District is not in compliance - assist with districts coming into compliance
- Coordinate with federal and state agencies 22–20718 5(a) - conduct, in cooperation with appropriate federal and state agencies and the owners and operators of privately owned forest lands, rangelands and agricultural lands in this state, conservation improvements on or in respect to these lands for the purposes of implementing conservation systems to conserve and improve natural resource conditions

**District Accountability & Responsibilities** - Currently outlined in State Statute Title 22-2722

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Becker adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Kelly, Executive Director