



# MID-SNAKE RC&D

## Resource, Conservation and Development

### CARING. GROWING. PROTECTING.

## Draft Minutes

### June 23, 2023 Quarterly Council Meeting

Twin Falls County West Building 275 Martin St (Conference Room B)

11:00 AM

#### Member Attendance:

Chairman: Heidi Tubbs - Snake River SWCD  
Vice Chairman: Terry Kramer - Balanced Rock SWCD  
Sharon Hardy - Minidoka SWCD  
Rachelle Osterhout - East Cassia SWCD  
Charlie Howell - Jerome County Commissioner  
Jack Johnson - Twin Falls County Commissioner  
Emily Goodnight - Administrator, MSRCD

#### Guests:

Joshua Rose - DL Evans  
Bradley Dawson - Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Steven Mullen - Filer Fire Department  
Sarah Rohrbach - Southern Idaho Tourism  
Kali Sherrill - Twin Falls County Weed Dept

#### Absent:

Secretary/Treasurer: Doreen McMurray - West Cassia SWCD  
Bob Kunau - Cassia County Commissioner

- I. **Mid-Snake RC&D Quarterly Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Heidi Tubbs at 11:03 AM.
- II. **Amendments to the Agenda:** Terry Kramer motioned to approve the following changes to the agenda: Adding review of updated By-Law's to the agenda, and removing Jason Parker's and Ryan Berlin's respective presentations. Charlie Howell seconded the motion to add to the agenda. Motion carried.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda:** Terry Kramer motioned to approve the agenda. Rachelle Osterhout seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. **The Minutes** from the previous meeting (March 24, 2023) were reviewed. Sharon Hardy made the motion to approve the minutes. Terry Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **Investment Update** presented by Joshua Rose. Portfolio Snapshot packets and Quarterly Market Outlook packets were provided. He advised that the Mid-Snake RC&D Council stay the course for now, as the stock market should begin to stabilize.
- VI. **Introductions.**

**VII. Administrator Update:**

- A. The Financial Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Sheet** were reviewed. Terry Kramer motioned to approve the financial forms. Charlie Howell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. Social Media Update** presented by Emily Goodnight. Facebook and Instagram reach are both up. Facebook Page followers are at 1,186 and Instagram followers are at 726.
- C. Council Membership Dues:** Emily Goodnight discussed which organizations have not yet paid membership dues and when they are due.

**VIII. Project Updates:**

- A. FireWise Garden at CSI:** Heidi Tubbs presented the updates on the FireWise garden. Living Earth LLC has done a wonderful job making improvements to the garden. There is potential to utilize the north end of the garden for pollinator plants, and a potential to partner with the Pollinator Council on that project. The Mid-Snake RC&D Council might meet at the FireWise Garden for our September Council meeting.
- B. Noxious Weed Booklets:** The Mid-Snake RC&D Council voted to donate \$500 each to Twin Falls County CWMA and Tri-County CWMA to fund the manufacture and donation of Noxious Weed Booklets. Kali Sherrill presented an update on the books. They have been manufactured but not yet in the possession of the CWMA's. Emily Goodnight updated the council that the stickers noting those booklets as donated by the MSRCDC have been ordered but not yet delivered.
- C. FireWise Plant Program** update presented by Emily Goodnight. Plant sales went well for both Hagerman High School and Gooding High School. Emily Goodnight shared the email from the Gooding High School agriculture teacher, Tom Woodland.
- D. Sawtooth Acres Project:** Emily Goodnight shared the email from Ryan Berlin regarding this project. John Ricketts mowed approximately 50' on BLM ground to remove hazardous fuels. The project went well and the area looks great. BLM would like this to be an annual project. Emily Goodnight presented the invoice for the mowing. Sharon Hardy motioned to approve. Terry Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- IX. Broken Bridge Repair Project** presented by Sarah Rohrbach on behalf of Jerome 2020. Jerome 2020 and Southern Idaho Tourism are working together to raise funds to repair the bridge between the Twin Falls and Jerome sides to increase recreational use, and potential commuter use on non-motorized vehicles. The land is owned by four entities: Jerome County, Twin Falls County, BLM, and Idaho Department of Lands. There is a shortfall of \$48,000 for the project. They are hoping that the MSRCDC would be willing to help with some of that money. Representatives from Jerome 2020 will attend the next council meeting.

**X. Round Table Discussion:**

- A. Shooting ranges:** Discussion included: how do we find these ranges? How do we establish them? IDFG is in the middle of a proposal to BLM to set up a

shooting range on BLM land. Bradley Dawson mentioned that the council could encourage the public to comment on the proposal or call the BLM field office in Shoshone. There is one location being considered in Jerome county, and the other location is close to Indian Springs road. Discussion continues: How do we prevent these shooting ranges from being used as a dumping ground? Could work crews from Juvenile Detention Centers be utilized to keep the shooting range(s) clean? Some people wanted to mine the spent lead at the shooting ranges; is that allowed, and how do we regulate it?

- B. Agricultural tourism:** Discussion: How do we slow the disappearance of farmland into subdivisions? We should proactively decide as a community what we want that to look like and get ahead on it. Twin Falls County is currently working on a rewrite of the formal guidelines for agri-tourism and will be looking to the public for input on it. The City of Twin Falls is the only current entity in the area that has formal guidelines for what does and does not qualify as agri-tourism.
- C. Recycling:** Discussion included: project at Milner landfill. It takes two-three years to get one of these facilities up and running. The company is from Salt Lake City and is funding the entire project, approximately \$300 million. The facility sorts all the waste by type and converts it to gas. Apparently there's one in Boise that's income-generating. Charlie Howell attended a conference in Arizona about these bio-digesting facilities and could potentially answer more questions.
- D. CSI FireWise Garden** the council would like to see us continue to work on the garden and develop it further over the next few years.
- E. Northside SWCD:** potential for partnerships. They have lots of funding at the moment.
- F. Filer Fire and Rescue:** Steven Mullen, Fire Chief, said that Filer Fire and Rescue continues to work on fire safety education, as well as keeping areas clear that have the potential to catch fire. They've had a couple of major fires by Kelly's Orchard and the old gravel pits. Another issue they're seeing is several new subdivisions going in with no city water lines. This means that when a fire happens, the Fire Department has no access to a water supply to fight the fires and it's logistically difficult to fit the large tanker engines on narrow subdivision streets.
- G. Minidoka-Cassia** has drills that they've been renting out to farmers. West Cassia has been working on the boat department, partnering with local police departments when they have issues, and they've moved the port. Minidoka County is also working on another project with moisture monitors. They're planted with the crops and provide detailed data about the soil conditions. Sharon Hardy stated that last year Minidoka County worked with Amalgamated Sugar to test these moisture monitors. The soil in Minidoka County specifically is so diverse that having this detailed data about soil conditions can help the farmers immensely. Minidoka County continues to push for education regarding cover crops. They are transitioning away from workshops and moving towards forums, as there is lots of information online about soil health. Discussion continued to

mention how our spring has seen a lot of moisture in the Magic Valley. This is affecting the hay crops - lots has either gotten wet and moldy (and then had to be turned into bedding) or been cut green to avoid that happening.

- H. **Fish and Game:** This past winter was heavier for snowfall, so a few animals are really struggling with their population. Deer in Idaho Falls experienced almost a 100% fawn mortality rate and 60% doe mortality rate. The urban deer population is increasing as cities creep further into forest lands, which in turns leads to more mountain lions in urban areas as well. Bradley Dawson stated that this is the time of year that IDFG starts seeing moose in towns. The reservoirs and fish populations are looking good this year. Renewable energy is coming fast and growing in Southern Idaho. The next year is expected to be double the amount of renewable energy in both public and private sectors. Discussion of the possibility of MSRCD potentially managing funds for IDFG, and MSRCD hopes to pursue a working relationship with IDFG.
- I. **Emily Goodnight** presented on her research of what other RC&D Councils are doing.
- J. Terry Kramer motioned to adjourn meeting. Sharon Hardy seconded the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Goodnight.