



MID-SNAKE RC&D

Resource, Conservation and Development

CARING. GROWING. PROTECTING.

Draft Minutes

December 1, 2023 Annual Council Meeting

County West Conference Room B, 275 Martin St Twin Falls, ID 83301

11:00 AM

Member Attendance:

Sec/Treas: Doreen McMurray - West Cassia SWCD
Chairman: Heidi Tubbs - Snake River SWCD
Vice Chairman: Terry Kramer - Balanced Rock SWCD
Sharon Hardy - Minidoka SWCD
Rachelle Osterhout - East Cassia SWCD
Emily Goodnight - Administrator, MSRCD
Steven Mullen - Filer Fire Department
Jonathan Spendlove - City of Twin Falls
Charlie Howell - Jerome County Commissioner
Rob Cottle - East Cassia Chairman (Zoom)

Guests:

Ryan Berlin - BLM
Garry Brown - ID Forest Service
Bill Bridges - Snake River Canyon Parks
Andrew Stevens - Buhl Fire Department
Tom Bicack - South West Idaho RC&D
Dylon Starry - Canyon County
Steve Paulsen - Living Earth LLC

Keynote Speaker:

Chanel Tewalt - ISDA Director (Zoom)

Absent:

Bob Kunau - Cassia County Commissioner
Jack Johnson - Twin Falls County Commissioner

- I. **Mid-Snake RC&D Annual Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Heidi Tubbs at 11:07 AM. Introductions were made, since there were several new faces.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Jonathan Spendlove motioned to approve the minutes as listed. Terry Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Doreen McMurray presented the Profit and Loss YTD statement. Sharon Hardy motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rachelle Osterhout seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. **Investment Update:** Josh Rose presented the update for MSRCD's investment account. He gave a general update about the market. The current balance of MSRCD's portfolio is \$117,505. He gave a recommendation that MSRCD takes advantage of more domestic bonds in the portfolio.
- V. **Administrator Update:** Emily Goodnight presented MSRCD's current social media metrics and presented the Remind group chat to the Council.
- VI. **Meeting Schedule 2024:** Emily Goodnight presented a proposed meeting schedule for 2024: March 22, June 21, September 20, December 6. Heidi Tubbs mentioned that

March 22 is the Friday before Spring Break for most school districts, so the Council amended that meeting to March 15. Terry Kramer motioned to approve the proposed schedule. Jonathan Spendlove seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VII. Board of Directors 2024 Election Results: Emily Goodnight tallied and presented the unanimous votes. Voting results were Heidi Tubbs as Chairman, Terry Kramer as Vice Chairman, Doreen McMurray as Secretary, and Rachelle Osterhout as Treasurer. Sharon Hardy motioned to approve the results. Terry Kramer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VIII. Tom Bicack, President of SWIDRCD: Tom Bicack presented his project with the historic Guffey Bridge, South West Idaho RC&D, and grant writing.

IX. Chanel Tewalt, Director of the ISDA: Director Tewalt shared a presentation for the treatment plan of the Snake River for the Quagga Mussel issue. ISDA was able to react quickly with support of legislators, Fish and Game, and a fund they had prepared for such an issue. The copper treatment dissipated as expected, and so far the treatment and results have been as expected. When the water warms back up above 14 degrees celsius, they will begin sampling more aggressively again. Director Tewalt addressed what things will look like going forward in regards to reopening water access with ISDA stations set up to do hotwashes for all watercraft coming out of the contaminated areas. Answered questions from the Council.

X. Ryan Berlin, BLM: Ryan Berlin shared a presentation on the hazardous fuels reduction project that they did north of Fairfield. They were able to remove sagebrush and flammable fuel, planted some seed to get the area back to perennial grass, and educated the homeowner about fire safety. He also spoke very highly of the new construction tool they were able to use to get this project done much quicker than it would have previously taken. MSRCD channeled \$14,250 for BLM projects.

XI. Steve Paulsen, Living Earth LLC: Steve Paulsen presented about the FireWise Garden. In total, MSRCD put \$8,500 into the project this year. He anticipates that it will be two more years before the Garden is back to its former glory. They were able to add \$2,800 worth of new plants - mostly perennial plants so that they don't have to be replaced every year. He is open to feedback and direction from the Council, and will provide us with the photos he took from start to finish.

XII. Bill Bridges, Snake River Canyons Park: Bill Bridges presented on the Broken Bridge project, to which MSRCD donated \$10,000. There have been issues with the contractor not finishing work that was supposed to be finished, and weather has not been favorable. Doreen McMurray asked for more photos, as the Council donated a significant chunk of money to this project. Bill Bridges said he would be happy to supply them.

XIII. Garry Brown, Idaho Forest Service: Garry Brown presented the proposed project outline for the next two years of the agreement between Idaho Forest Service and MSRCD. The Forest Service wants to tackle three target areas and work with the CWMA's, utilizing partners like MSRCD. They have plenty of funding and resources, they just need the partners to get it done. They have approximately \$135,000 for MSRCD to channel over the next two years.

XIV. Sharon Hardy, Minidoka SWCD: Sharon Hardy presented on the Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project. This was the eighth year of the workshop and they catered to 182

people. The workshop cost over \$12,000 and MSRCD was a key sponsor with the \$2,000 donation. The workshop covered topics such as integrating livestock with cover crops and soil plant monitoring.

- XV. Rachelle Osterhout, East Cassia SWCD:** Rachelle Osterhout presented on the LSEE land judging event. MSRCD donated \$1,000 and the total event cost was roughly \$12,000. The event was held on the grade heading towards Albion, and even in the terribly cold weather they still had 19 teams from all over the state attend. They held a career fair between tallying results and the awards ceremony, so the competitors were able to speak with agencies like DEQ, NRCS, etc. There were almost 100 students who competed in the event, and the winners went on to compete at the national level. Rachelle then played a video covering the event.
- XVI. Rachelle Osterhout motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steven Mullen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:43 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Emily Goodnight.