



98 B South 200 West  
Rupert, ID 83350  
Tel: 208-436-4777 ext. 3  
Fax: 208-436-3098  
Email: [mswcd@pmt.org](mailto:mswcd@pmt.org)  
Board meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday every month.

### Top 3 Natural Resource Priorities

1. Water
2. Soil
3. Outreach and Education

### FY 2015 Revenue (7/1/14-6/30/15)

\$15,445.00	State
\$ 5,000.00	County
\$91,847.00	Direct Seed Project
\$ 1,142.00	Grants
\$ 1,400.00	Match
<b>\$114,834.00</b>	<b>Total</b>

### Recent Projects

Minidoka, East Cassia and West Cassia SWCDs were awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant from the NRCS for the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project. Two 15-ft. John Deere 1590 no-till drills were purchased and are available for rent to promote direct seed farming and cover crop practices. Approximately 1900 acres were planted with the drills this season. The districts have received very positive feedback from producers. There is also a rebate program in place for producers who purchase cover crop seed.

Minidoka SWCD was instrumental in bringing about the implementation of the A&B Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) project. The project consists of 20 miles of pipeline to convey 110 cfs of irrigation water from the Snake River. This will provide more efficient irrigation on 6000 acres in Minidoka County and reduce ground water withdrawals from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Construction on the project began in November 2015.

Minidoka SWCD supervisors are working with the Minidoka School District administration in helping students and teachers become more engaged with educational activities relating to agriculture. Supervisor Dusty Wilkins is the Ag Advisory Board Chairman, and through the efforts of the Board, an additional Ag teacher was hired to work at Minico High School.

### **Mini-Cassia Nitrate Priority Areas (NPAs) Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Project**

Minidoka SWCD is working jointly with West Cassia & East Cassia SWCDs in partnership with the NRCS and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission to address the problem of elevated nitrates in the ground water within the Cassia and Minidoka NPAs. Minidoka County dropped from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> in the latest Idaho Department of Environmental Quality NPA ranking because of a decreasing trend in ground water nitrate concentrations. This year was the final year for the project, which involved 3 producers treating 505 acres. Farmers were paid incentive payments to implement high intensity nutrient management, precision agriculture, and high-intensity irrigation water management.

**Operations**

Roy Belnap resigned as supervisor on the Minidoka SWCD Board and Justin Hunter was appointed by the Board to replace him in March 2015.

Aaron Firth joined the Minidoka Board as an associate supervisor in May 2015.

In February, Minidoka, East Cassia, and West Cassia SWCDs hosted a Direct Seed and Cover Crop Workshop. The event was attended by 66 people.

Supervisors and the Administrative Assistant attended the Spring and Fall Division IV meetings along with the IASCD Annual Conference in Boise.

In July, Minidoka hosted the annual three district picnic. East Cassia SWCD, West Cassia SWCD along with legislators, mayors, county commissioners, and county extension agents attended this event.

In November, Minidoka, East Cassia, and West Cassia SWCDs hosted a Fall Cover Crop Tour. There were 56 participants, many of whom showed much interest in implementing cover crops in their farming practices.

**Annual Educational Programs**

This year’s theme for our annual poster contest and speech contest was, “Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators.” Six elementary schools participated in the poster contest. Minidoka awarded \$50 to the top three winners in the county and \$180 in gift cards to the top three winners of each school.

The MSWCD hosted an Arbor Day Event for second-grade students at two elementary schools. They created drawings showing where they would plant a tree. All participants were given a tree seedling.

The Minidoka SWCD donated funds and helped host the State Land and Soil Evaluation Event held at the Pickett farm near Oakley. Also, the district donated funds to the Know Your Government Seminar.

**Future Projects**

The Minidoka Board is researching Pollinator Gardens. We are looking for a site that can be observed and enjoyed by the public.

The Board recently purchased district signs and will be installing them when the weather allows.

The Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project will continue through 2017. We are excited about this project and the opportunities it creates for our producers.

**Awards**

On November 17, 2015 Board Chairman, John Firth, was awarded The Doyle Scott award in recognition of his determination and dedication to conservation practices in Minidoka County. He was instrumental in spearheading the A&B Irrigation AWEPP project and also the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project. John is pictured below (speaking at the podium).



**Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District Board**

John Firth	Chairman	208-431-4462	Heyburn, Idaho
Brian Kossman	Vice Chair	208-431-5699	Paul, Idaho
Russ Suchan	Treasurer	208-260-1155	Paul, Idaho
Dusty Wilkins	Supervisor	208-670-1641	Paul, Idaho
Justin Hunter	Supervisor	208-650-0188	Heyburn, Idaho
2 Aaron Firth	Associate	208-650-6794	Heyburn, Idaho

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT:** Minidoka SWCD

**FOR YEAR:**

2015

**DUE :**

**December 20, 2015**

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

**John Firth**

Printed Name

**December 17, 2015**

Date

**208-436-4777**

District Telephone

**mswcd@pmt.org**

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**