



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83702

Telephone: 208-332:1790 • Fax: 208-332:1799

www.swc.idaho.gov

ITEM #3

TO: Chairman Bronson and Commissioners Radford, Stutzman, Wright, and Trebesch
FROM: Teri Murrison, Administrator
DATE: Nov. 3, 2011
RE: Administrator's Report

Activities Update

Thanks for the kind words and emails after the passing of my mother. I feel very fortunate to be among the SWCC family during this time for yet another reason. Thanks also to Kristin Magruder for attending the Division 5 and 6 meetings to give our Commission report on my behalf. From all accounts, she did a great job.

Since your last meeting, your administrator has attended the following:

- Met with Commissioner Trebesch for an orientation to the Commission, Lt. Governor Brad Little, Senator Bert Brackett, DFM Analyst Shelby Kerns, Legislative Analyst Ray Houston, and Kristin Magruder met with Commissioner Wright for an orientation;
- Attended dedication of Ag Pavilion at Julia Davis Park, Boise.

Personnel Update

As you know, Erin Seaman has been hired as the RCRDP Loan Assistant. We are currently seeking a part time temporary office assistant to take over the many administrative tasks she still performs (travel arrangements, p-cards, invoices, etc.).

Thanks to a dedicated panel of conservation partners (including Kari Schwendiman of IDEA, Scott Koberg of the Ada District, John Bilderback of the Dept. of Ag, Gene Schock from NRCS, and Bill Lillibridge), we interviewed four finalists for the Agricultural Program Specialist. It was a difficult decision, but the panel recommended a creative solution to a hard decision. We have offered the District Support Services position to a candidate and will update the Commission on the 9th.

Conservation Partnership Agreement

Attached is the latest draft of the Conservation Partnership Agreement that is slated to be ceremonially signed during the IASCD Conference. Please review it and be prepared to consider authorizing the Chair to sign on behalf of the Commission. You will receive an updated and hopefully final draft prior to your meeting on the 9th.



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Good News

District allocations were distributed on October 26th. Thanks to Chairman Bronson and members of the working group for all the hard work.

In addition, we were delighted to learn recently that a savvy recommendation from Kristin Magruder translated into cash savings: the Commission realized \$5,500 savings in SWCAP expenses paid this year for State Treasurer's office services by consolidating some of our operating charges (for fuel, phones, etc.) and reducing the number of invoices processed on our behalf. We anticipate further savings next year. Good work, Kristin.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize Chair to sign Conservation Partnership Agreement

Attachment: Draft Conservation Partnership Agreement

The Idaho Conservation Partnership

Statement of Cooperation (Suggested: Understanding)

We believe in strong, independently led conservation districts fully exercising their role to lead non-regulatory conservation efforts throughout the State of Idaho.

We seek to strengthen the delivery of non-regulatory natural resource conservation programs throughout the State of Idaho through an active partnership with Idaho's conservation districts.

We continue to support the goals and principles outlined in previous mutual agreements signed by each conservation district chairman, the Governor of Idaho, and the USDA Secretary of Agriculture.

Through our independent responsibilities, and working together, we will provide leadership to the State of Idaho on natural resource conservation issues and successfully deliver services and programs.

We share a common set of guiding principles to achieve our common goals. These are:

- Working together to provide support to Idaho's fifty individual conservation districts, and supporting their non-regulatory efforts of natural resource conservation and protection.
- Promoting economically viable environmental practices to enhance, maintain and conserve Idaho's natural resources.
- Building alliances with Idaho's agriculture partners to expand the partnership, therefore strengthening the importance of non-regulatory, voluntary conservation efforts to enhance ag production and the protection of natural resources in Idaho.
- Ensuring local control and decisions regarding natural resource conservation.
- Involving each partner in the decision making process when and where appropriate.
- Sharing the leadership, ownership, the credit and responsibility for natural resource protection and preservation in Idaho.
- Communicating, coordinating and cooperating.

Unique Roles for the Partners

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) will represent Idaho's conservation districts as the primary entities to coordinate voluntary, locally led efforts to sustain and enhance Idaho's natural resources, and strengthen Idaho's conservation districts and thereby the non-regulatory approach to conservation. IASCD will accomplish this goal by assisting state and federal officials in crafting legislation, and in lobbying state and federal officials to support or oppose legislation and regulations that may impact the work of the fifty conservation districts. IASCD will actively seek new alliances within Idaho's agriculture economy to support the work of the individual districts. Finally, IASCD will assist districts in promoting the conservation work of the district.

Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) will increase the effectiveness of conservation districts by increasing the effectiveness of conservation district employees. IDEA recognizes

conservation districts as the primary local entities to lead non-regulatory conservation efforts. IDEA supports conservation districts and conservation district employees by promoting professional development, communication, partnerships, and educational outreach.

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWC), serving with the soil and water conservation districts as Idaho's primary entities to lead coordinated conservation efforts, will facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will use 75 years of experience to work in assisting owners of Idaho's private land with conserving their soil, water and other natural resources. NRCS's expertise is available to the partners to educate local, state and federal agencies and policymakers. Their technical assistance will be based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs.

President
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

President
Idaho District Employees Association

State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chairman
Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission