



MID-SNAKE RC&D

Resource, Conservation and Development

CARING. GROWING. PROTECTING.

Draft Minutes

September 20, 2024 Quarterly Council Meeting

Tubbs Berry Farm 1150 South Park Ave West, Twin Falls, ID 83301

11:00 AM

Member Attendance:

Chairman: Heidi Tubbs - Snake River SWCD
Secretary: Doreen McMurray - West Cassia SWCD
Treasurer: Rachelle Osterhout - East Cassia SWCD
Sharon Hardy - Minidoka SWCD
Jonathan Spendlove - City of Twin Falls
Nikki Nelson - Administrator, MSRC

Guests:

Joshua Rose-DL Evans Investment Accounts
Denise Helsey - Tri County CWMA

- I. **Mid-Snake RC&D Quarterly Meeting called to Order by:** Chairman Heidi Tubbs at 11:15 AM. Introductions were made.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sharon Hardy motioned to approve the agenda as listed. Jonathan Spendlove seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** Doreen McMurray motioned to approve the draft minutes from June's quarterly meeting. Sharon Hardy seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Rachelle Osterhout presented the balance sheet with beginning and ending balance with a detailed report of where the funds were spent. Heidi adds that The LOR Grant put the Field Day ahead financially. The council had \$4850 to spend, but only approximately \$1500 was spent. Those funds stay with the RC&D. Jonathan Spendlove motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Doreen McMurray seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **Investment Update:** Josh Rose presented the update for Mid-Snake RC&D's investment account. The balance grew approximately \$6000 since last meeting. Current quarter grew 5.48%. This is in anticipation of interest going down, as they have gone down .5 point and predicted to go down another .5 point by the end of the year. Moved some from foreign stocks to domestic bonds. Gain is \$13,299 since beginning of investment in 2021. This has been the best quarter and best year so far. Elections may

have an impact on investments, but the council is neither being over risky or over conservative and Josh believes it is in a good spot for the long run.

- VI. Administrator Update:** Nikki Nelson presented updates on the current administrator duties. She has been working on social media posts that are scheduled each month and collecting project summaries and pictures from council to share what the RC&D is doing in our community. Discussion was made about who has access to the Mid-Snake RC&D email account and how to prevent important emails from being deleted. She has completed the Form 990 and submitted the Forest Service work agreement invoice that was completed this summer in Ketchum. Nikki also met with Firewise to discuss the future of the Firewise Garden at the Breckenridge Endowment Garden at CSI.
- VII. Clarify “Voting Members at Large” Statement on the list of potential members list:** It was determined that the “voting members at large” is not a title headline, but rather other individuals and entities that the council can appoint or County Commissioners can recommend. Nikki will change the wording to state “Other potential entities that could be involved” as the title and voting members at large (appointed by council), weed supervisors, ISDA, and canal companies as subcategories under that title.
- VIII. Requested funds for the West Cassia SWCD 2024 Land and Soil Evaluation Event:** Doreen presented the funding application and what the \$1500 would be used for: pay for meals for volunteers, morning break-donuts and drinks, miscellaneous expenses, Porta Potties, etc. Discussion about the weather and plans for the event. The two top teams go to nationals. Usually 12-18 teams (80-85 total people) of FFA or 4-H groups compete in the Idaho State Event. After the contest, there is a career fair with BLM, FS, NRCS, and other Natural Resource Agencies, etc to present to the participants what careers are available in that area and what qualifications they need to get them. Jonathan Spendlove motions to approve the request, Sharon Hardy seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IX. Firewise Garden Discussion:** Nikki met with Ivy Dickinson, Andrea and Kelsey with the BLM to discuss the Firewise Garden. The garden is not currently abiding by Firewise standards and will need an overhaul to comply with expectations and regain approval as a demonstration site. The primary concerns for the garden is the overgrowth that causes over lap and ladders for fire to spread. There’s also poor irrigation repairs and weeds that are taking over. The council discussed whether they would like to keep the garden as a Firewise Garden, or change it to a nice walk through garden with fire adaptive plants. The council wishes to regain the space as a model of Firewise and would like to follow the guidance of Ivy, Kelsey and Andrea. Heidi suggests using the space as a learning place for CSI with the guidance of the BLM. The council wishes to keep the garden at a \$6000 annual budget. Sharon Hardy makes a motion to revert the garden back to a Firewise space, not renew the contract with Living Earth and see what CSI can do. Doreen McMurray seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- X. **Weed Contracts:** Ryan Edwards completed weed spray of 95 acres in the Ketchum area. He invoiced \$19555 for work. RC&D pays the invoice and the Forest Service reimburses RC&D plus 10%. Nikki has submitted the invoice and is waiting for it to be paid to send back to the Forest Service for reimbursement.
- XI. **Denise Hesley:** Denise was able to secure a grant through ISDA for \$30,000 worth of chemical. She is currently looking for storage for it. Her contracts are going really well.
- XII. **BLM:** Ryan Berlin notified Heidi and Nikki about a complaint from a land owner who had work done by the BLM. He may contact the RC&D but the work he wants done cannot be done given the terrain.
- XIII. **Sharon Hardy Update:** Indian Springs target shooting is shut down because of near misses of cyclists, homes, etc. The shut down went into effect on September 20th.
- XIV. **Heidi Tubbs Update:** The EPA Grant was submitted. Part of it was for signage, and things for FireWise Garden and Nikki's salary for 3 years. This is a \$20 million grant for HVAC system upgrades in several schools. It is currently being reviewed in the system.

Lunch

- XV. **Jonathan Spendlove Update:** Directed appropriations in Rock Creek-get better quality water from town. \$5-8 million just for planning part of the project. This project will primarily be TSS ponds with other ponds to help with water quality going downstream. All government entities are involved with it. Could RC&D possibly be named as a supporter/stakeholder? Twin Falls SWID could be involved. How do we clean up the water coming from farmers upstream? Could be a \$20-30 million project.
- XVI. **Discussion:**
 - A. Small acreage zoning. What long term plan do we want for urban ag?
 - B. Quagga mussels: reactive approach so far. What infrastructure changes can we make that can be a long term approach with irrigation and power companies. Social media-tap into ISDA's conversations.
 - C. Rec centers
 - D. Trail from city access and county buildings by Rock Creek. Private owners are potentially willing to allow that to happen. ¼ mile needs to be finished to complete the full trail from Dierkes
 - E. Walking/riding path in Declo

- F. December meeting-invite legislators, and county commissioner reps
 - 1. Presentation of what RC&D does
 - 2. Include projects we have done and ask what resources we have and what projects they need done.
 - 3. Nikki put together a presentation of projects we have done.
- G. December meeting-want a detailed explanation and presentation of the Broken Bridge project.
 - 1. Nikki will contact them about it and help put together a presentation.
 - 2. Contact Sarah Rohgberg to get updates and pictures.

XVII. Sharon Hardy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 pm. Jonathan Spendlove seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nikki Nelson, Administrator.