

BEAR LAKE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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JENNIFER JENSON, CHAIRMAN JAMES HARDCASTLE TODD LLOYD MARK PARKER DEVIN BOEHME

**Bear Lake Soil and Water Board Meeting
February 6, 2022 @ Montpelier USDA Service Center**

Present: Jennifer Jenson, Mark Parker, Devin Boehme, Cameron Williams, James Hardcastle, Rex Payne, Brandee Wells, On Google (Shawn Banks, George Hitz)

Prayer: James gave a prayer

Welcome: Jennifer Welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes: The board went over the minutes. Mark made a motion to approve the minutes. James 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Financial: The board went over the financial report. Brandee told the board about some subscription renewals that will be coming up. Mark made a motion to accept the financial report with the addition of \$1000 to the Debit Card for the upcoming renewals. Devin 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Agency Reports:

FSA: None

NRCS: Cameron gave his report. See attached report. Then he showed the board the snotel maps for Feb. 1. Currently we are at 137% of normal. For 1971-2020 we were at 123% of normal for the average. Cameron said that there is a Soil Health Workshop on Wednesday in Idaho Falls. There is also a profitable Beef Production Workshop coming up in Twin Falls.

Bear Lake County Commissioners: Rex said that they did some interviews for the county agent position. They offered the job to a lady and now she is trying to find her husband a job and hope it all works out so she can accept the offer.

Rex said that they had just been to training meetings in Boise. They learned that there is a program that the Weed Division can help counties with noxious weeds for landowners.

There was discussion on the adjudication. The adjudication letters have been mailed out. People are asking questions and getting worried about what is in the letters. There was discussion on how the associations will have to have every permittee in them file for their own rights.

Rex told the board that the way the public defender has worked is going to change. As of now the county Commissioners are the ones who hire the public defender. Now the state is going to take this over. They will be based out of the valley and there is a concern about how this is going to work.

ISWCC: George said that the committee will be presenting this week:

- Tue -- Senate Ag Affairs Comm, Room WW31, 8 am
- Wed – House Ag Affairs Comm, Room EW 42, 1:30 pm
- Thu – House Resources & Conservation, Room EW 40, 1:30 pm (joint presentation with IDWR, IDEQ, Idaho Dairymen’s Assoc, & Idaho Water User’s Assoc.)
- Fri – JFAC, Room 310, 8 am

He will send a link to the legislature website to access these meetings to Brandee.

George said that there is \$5 Million currently in the Governor’s recommended budget.

George said that Delwyne and the Leadership team are discussing the engineering positions and staffing. Also George wanted to remind us that the 5 year/annual plan is due March 31st. He said he knew that we were working on it before this meeting so we should be good on getting it in.

Grant Reports:

Conservation Basics: Shawn presented the report. He also talked about the application that Chris had made up and said that Brandee and Chris have met with some landowners to talk about future projects already. The board looked at the application and agreed to use it.

District: Brandee said that she talked to Jennifer and she is willing to come work for us again. The board is excited for that. Brandee said that while up at Legislative days other Districts were talking about the W-9s that they do or don’t do for projects and then Custer said that she had just been audited and they started to question her on why she didn’t do them and she had just started so they let it go. Brandee came home and asked Teuschers and they said that it would probably be a good idea to start doing because the IRS is starting to look harder at those type of things. There was discussion on the subject. The board asked Rex on his idea. He said he would suggest they do them.

Devin made a motion that we need to have the landowners doing projects sign a W-9 starting with new contracts, but make sure it is explained to them before they sign the contract. Mark 2nd the motion. Motion carried. The board went through the posters from the 6th grade science class. They picked the top three. It was decided to pay the same amounts as last year this year.

Division V Meeting: March 9 in Pocatello. Brandee made sure that the board knew about the meeting. They will let me know at next meeting if they are going to be able to attend.

Tree Sales: Brandee said that the flyer is almost done. The board does want the flyers in the paper still. Cameron suggested that we put something in the Caribou newspaper also. Jennifer asked about the scholarship and if it has been updated on the website yet. Brandee will make sure she uploads the corrected file with a date of April 28th for a return date so that we will be able to look at them at our May Meeting.

Executive Session §74-2061 (a) & (b): Employee Evaluation James made a motion to go into executive session. Mark 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

The board did the evaluation for Brandee and discussed the wages of her and the seasonal employee. Devin made a motion to up Brandee up to \$15.00 an hour and Jennifer Teuscher up to \$12.00 and hour.

Next Meeting: March 6th, 2023, at 1 PM

Adjournment: Devin made a motion to Adjourn. Mark 2nd the motion. Motion carried.