

IE SWCS Executive Board Meeting

10:00 am, June 08, 2007

Whitman Farm Service Center

805 S. Vista Point Drive, Suite 2

Colfax, WA 99111-9565

Phone: (509) 397-4301

Draft Agenda

Attendance: Georgie Leinweber, Don McCool, Esther Patterson, Mark Cottrell, Ann Swannack, Tim Dring, and Shelly Lassiter. Six of ten board members were present constituting a quorum.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 10/13/06 Executive board meeting were read and a motion to accept as read was made by Esther Patterson and seconded by Georgie Leinweber. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Esther Patterson gave the Treasurer's Report. Esther reported an income of \$855.00 plus gifts of \$600.00. (See Treasurer's Report). Expenditures of \$658.57 for the Spring Meeting, including Website payments (Shelly Lassiter), \$23.80 to Ann Swannack for billing not turned in. (See Treasurer's Report). Total income for the period was \$746.43. There are no changes to the Roger Veseth Funds. Esther Patterson made a recommendation to donate as a gift of \$9000.00 to scholarship fund. (See Treasurer's Report.) Zion bank balance is missing (12 month CD as of May 23rd at 4.0%. Esther is waiting for Zion to contact her. Mark Cottrell moved that the report be approved, Ann Swannack seconded. Motion passed. CD's at the American West Bank are \$4455.69 X2 and one at \$4455.68 as of 04/17/07. The old American West Bank Account is closed. The account statements were going to Ann Swannack, they now will be going to Don McCool and Ester Patterson.

Report on Spring Meeting

The spring meeting was well attended. 40 to 50 people attended our speaker's portion of the meeting. Next meeting we may want to pass out lunch tickets because some people tried to eat without paying. All were happy with the turnout. We need an e-mail list of our partners (Conservation Districts, etc.) so we can involve them in future meetings.

Director Reports

Steve Rolph will send a report in a few weeks.
Larry Hooker sent written report (included)
Mark Cottrell delivered a report (add)

Old Business

Delegate to National SWCS Conference

NRCS will sponsor Ann Swannack to go to the National Conference as the Inland Empire Delegate.

Items for Silent Auction

Stained Glass

Fishing Flies

Salmon

Ann and Shelly will think of something to take.

Laddered CDs

See above

Roger Veseth Fund

The committee is Tim Dring, Don McCool, and Larry Cooke. The goal is to speak to Claire Veseth about what we do with the money. On what do we spend it?

New Business

Student Chapter. Ann Swannack will send a report.

Fall Meeting October 19th, 2007

Fires around Dayton back up plan

Toxic Waste Tour (CDL ID)

Air Quality Issues

Adams County Wind Tunnel and Air Quality (Wins) Grange in Ralston or Horse Heavens (we will chase the Tunnel)

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM

Date: June 8, 2007

**Inland Empire Soil and Water Conservation Society
Executive Board Meeting**

June, 8 2007 Colfax, WA

Subject: North Idaho Panhandle Director's Report

Topics of concern and interest in the North Idaho Panhandle:

- Agricultural Burning – especially on grass seed crops (bluegrass)
- Farm Bill
- Profitability of farming - cost of fuel, fertilizer, and crop prices
- Bio-Diesel
- Noxious weed – Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Water Issues – ground and surface water quality and quantity, water rights, Rathdrum Prairie, Groundwater Report, North Idaho Adjudication process
- Biomass fuel
- Loss of agricultural land to urbanization
- TMDL
- Threatened and Endangered species – fish, wolf, bald eagle
- Energy – electrical power, wind, water, gas, prices, etc.
- Veral Kasier photos on line at WSU
- Roger Veseth photos to be put on line at WSU in the future
- Society of American Foresters is having a field tour of the Columbia Complex fire on June 30, 2007
- Idaho Society for Range Management and the Idaho SWCS Chapters are having a tour on August 7th and 8th in Dubois, ID

Submitted by Mark Cottrell

DATE: 5/29/07

SUBJECT: Southeastern WA Director's Report

Due to personal commitments, I will be unable to attend the IEC-SWCS Executive Board meeting scheduled for June 8th. The following is my written Director's Report:

- **8th Funding Round – Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** We are currently in the 8th round of accepting applications for salmon recovery projects in Southeast WA. Historically, the SR-SRB receives about \$4.5 M for projects. Recent projects funded through this process (either wholly or partially) include design and construction of fish ladders, removal of migration barriers, and conservation easements. The Walla Walla County Conservation District, for example, completed two barrier removal projects last fall by installing new fish ladders (one at the Touchet River irrigation diversion and one at the end of the Mill Creek Flood Control Channel at Gose Street). On May 23rd and 24th, tours were held for the SR-SRB directors to look at the fruits of their labor – to visit projects completed or in progress with salmon recovery funding.
- **WRIA 32 & WRIA 35 TMDL Development:** Both these WRIAs have been going through the tedious process of developing TMDLs for the Walla Walla Watershed (Washington side) and the Tucannon and Asotin Creek drainages. These include TMDLs for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients, pesticides, and temperature. WRIA 32 (the Walla Walla Basin) is further along in the process than WRIA 35. A number of final reports in WRIA 32 have been through the final public comment periods and will soon become effective.
- **Bio-energy Issues:** There is quite a bit of interest in bio-energy in this area. The Blue Mountain RC&D has assisted local sponsors complete a feasibility study on development of a bio-diesel facility and has also assisted the Dayton School District with the development of a "Fuels for Schools" project that is close to becoming a reality. Bob Hutchens, a Columbia County wheat farmer, is developing his own bio-diesel plant that is designed to meet the fuel needs of his family farm. He will also have the capacity to lease out the facility to neighbors for their use once his needs are met. Ron Dunning, owner of Dunning Irrigation in Lowden, WA along with several other partners has developed a oilseed crushing plant at Lowden. We hear rumors of larger facilities in various stages of planning but we haven't seen any construction to date.
- **Walla Walla Basin Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan:** This process has been underway for several years. The effort to develop this HCP revolves around protecting ESA listed fish. A proactive approach has been undertaken and this is keeping NMFS and USFWS at bay – in fact they are fairly elated at the "Walla Walla Way" of addressing these problems. Everything being done in the basin is being closely scrutinized, from guaranteeing minimum flows, to an aggressive programs aimed at fish screens, water meters, irrigation efficiency improvement, and creation of buffers.
- **Increased Emphasis on Newer Agronomic Technologies:** In the past year or so, there has been increased emphasis on adoption of some of the more recently developed agronomic technologies in SE Washington. For example, the Snake River Local Work Group has made recommendations to NRCS for modification of the EQIP program to provide additional incentives to producers to adopt GPS auto-steer systems on their tractors, to use infra-red light-sensor technology for weed control spray applications in chemical fallow, and to use low disturbance injection systems for spring top dressing in

order to split fertilization applications. All these technologies result in improved water and air quality along with many other benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

LARRY HOOKER
SE Washington Director
IEC-SWCS