

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order Thursday, April 24, 2025, by Bob Webb, Chairman at 6:00 pm.

LIVE ATTENDEES	ZOOM ATTENDEES	ABSENTEES
Bob Webb	Rhett Nelsen	Gene Merrill (IVWC)
Janice Denney	Kevin O'Brien, IVWC	Carol Crawford (IVWC)
Katherine Mechling		Patty Downing (IVWC)
Katrina Poydack		W Joerger (IVWC)
Matthew Robinson		
Zachary Robinson		Arlyse DeLoyola, Staff
John Bellville, Staff		
Lydia Robinson, guest		

SCRIBE

Notes were taken by Kathy Mechling

- **Minutes:** The minutes of the March meeting were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Janice Denney made a motion to approve the minutes for March.**
 - **Zachary Robinson seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion carried unanimously with Directors Webb, Denney, Mechling, Nelsen, Poydack, M Robinson, and Z Robinson in favor.**
- **Financials:** The financial reports from March 2025 were presented to the Board for review.
 - **Katrina Poydack made a motion to accept the financial reports**
 - **Matthew Robinson seconded that motion.**
 - **Discussion was held.**
 - **The motion carried without dissent- Directors Webb, Denney, Mechling, Nelsen, Poydack, M Robinson, and Z Robinson in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Connect Report**

Janice and Arlyse attended the CONNECT meeting. Janice attended Agroforestry meeting and a presentation on water and riparian beaver strongholds. Idaho had interesting success maps, and California is paying for such programs. She expressed frustration at the lack of paper copies of reports presented. She wished for more collaborative partnerships with better public access to all the information. Arlyse attended mostly administrative presentations. Janice had a handout made by Marion SWCD Little Habitat Project, citizen science for kids. John suggested more Board members attend next year's CONNECT meeting.

All expressed appreciation to Janice and Arlyse for attending and reporting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Northwest Local Government Legal Advisors, LLC Contract:**

John told the board other similar-sized SWCDs use this attorney, especially for reviewing larger contracts. Large grant reviews are recommended by ODA

- **Katrina made a motion to enter into an engagement for legal services with NLGLA, LLC.**
- **Rhett Nelsen seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed with aye votes from directors Webb, Nelsen, Mechling, Poydack, Denney. Z. Robinson. M. Robinson voted no.**

- **Contract Administration Policy Resolution 2025-02**

The Policy adopted last meeting had a mistake. The numbers were not in alignment with DOJ values. We need to lower contract limits to DOJ standards, but we can increase rates for personal services.

- **Bob Webb moved to change the contract as outlined by John.**
- **Katrina seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously with aye votes from directors Webb, Nelsen, Mechling, Poydack, Denney, M. Robinson, and Z. Robinson.**

- **District Manager Contract Signature Authority**

Chairman Webb request the Board give John authority to sign contracts to improve efficiency. Currently Bob needs to sign contracts, but he is often unavailable, so delays occur. Other SWCDs our size give the Manager contract signatory authority.

- **Kathy Mechling made the motion to give John Bellville authority to sign for grant agreements and all contracts up to \$50K.**
- **Z. Robinson seconded the motion.**
- **The motion passed unanimously with aye votes from directors Webb, Nelsen, Mechling, Poydack, Denney, M. Robinson, and Z. Robinson.**

- **Althouse Nursery**

Janice reported that the old Althouse nursery is under new management and are planting native trees from seed and they may be able to provide plants and/or seed for our projects.

This was informational only.

- **Matthew Robinson** handed out a research manuscript *Physical controls on Irrigation Return Flow Contributions to Stream Flow in Irrigated Alluvial Valleys* by Stephen B Ferencz and Vincent Tidwell from Sandia National Labs.

Discussion held on delaying water going into streams, increased stream flow post fire, Some soils need water to be restored. State rules regarding off-channel water impoundment.

Board agrees to read report and discuss how it affects us, John can help write grants as indicated.

- **M. Robinson made a motion for Board to research advantages for off-stream water impoundments for the Illinois Valley.**
- **Z. Robinson seconded the motion.**
- **Motion passed unanimously with aye votes from directors Webb, Nelsen, Mechling, Poydack, Denney, M. Robinson, and Z. Robinson.**

CONTINUING

- **Staff and partnering Agency Reports (18:50):**

John reviewed his report. Board encouraged John to apply for Cannabis site clean-up funds. Despite low probability of success, it is a significant problem that eventually will need to be funded.

Public toxin disposal: We need to find a few landowners who need to dispose of significant amounts of biocides to hold a public disposal event. We will reach out to Beth for sponsorship.

Roadside herbicide: Our Board can make a statement to ask the county to decrease use of roadside herbicides. Discussion held about magnitude of roadside plants and the fire risk they can make. Current county rule is for landowner to apply for “no spray” permit, they then need to clear and maintain their roadside and post “no spray” Many are unable to perform physical labor of clearing and maintaining without spray. Consider organizing volunteer party to help those needing physical assistance.

Artificial Mussels: John is in contact with group from Hong Kong who make passive absorptive units which collect heavy metals over a specific time. John will proceed with testing some streams and maybe Lake Selmac, with appropriate controls. He will send more information out to the Board.

May 1 deadline for \$10K Env. Org to build reforestation drone.

Hydroseeder for North Valley diversity funding.

Applying for \$6K for two 8-week internships (July 1-September 1).

John is installing weir near Q Bar X Board. It was recommended that it be insured as above-ground structure.

Environmental remediation project: looking into levelers to decrease algae problems. Nanobubbles sink O2 for aerobic digestion and can decrease residual pesticides and fertilizers to help clean lakes.

Arlyse: We reviewed her report,

Kevin O’Brien of IV Watershed Council Enjoys working closely with IVS&WCD

Public Comment:

Z. Robinson led discussion: In our projects we should have in mind need to keep farmland irrigated. If farm equipment is sold off, the water rights to that land can be lost. People new to the area might not be familiar with how water rights are granted and lost. We should be trying to protect them for the farms. There should be a way to return water rights to land that lost it for various reasons. Consider leasing water back from Trout Unlimited? Maybe facilitate acquisition of used irrigation equipment.

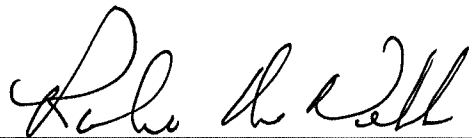
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 22, at 6:00 pm at the Illinois Valley SWCD Office and via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

APPROVED MINUTES:



DATE

May 22, 2025

