

Minutes
Gem Soil & Water Conservation District
1857 Hwy 16, Ste B., Emmett, Idaho
August 3, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kirk Vickery, Chairman; Maggie Sisler, Vice Chairman; Jamie McCann, Treasurer (by phone for business); Zeke Ortiz, Associate; Leanne Buck, District Manager

NOT ABLE TO ATTEND: Clayton Ayers, Supervisor; Cliff Fivecoat, Secretary

GUESTS: Loretta Strickland, ISWCC; Mary Huff, IASCD

PARTNERS: Meghan Brooksher, ISWCC; Ryan Collins, NRCS; Tyler Ernst, NRCS/Pheasants Forever

MEETING: Kirk called the district operations committee of the Gem SWCD board meeting to order at 12:05pm. The meeting was held at 1857 Hwy 16, Ste B., Emmett, Idaho, no quorum present.

MINUTES:

No quorum present. July 6, 2026, Minutes to be approved at next meeting.

TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORT:

No quorum present, operations committee approved to pay bills. July 31, 2026, Treasure Report to be approved next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

July 6, 2026

Beginning Balance:	\$ 9,810.86
Debits	\$ 0.00
Credits	<u>\$ 2,882.32</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 6,928.54

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Board discussed Fall Tour presentations. Leanne to call extension office to see about a small acreage farming presentation and the Gem County Weed Superintendent for a weed management presentation.

NEW BUSINESS/DISTRICT OPERATIONS:

Board reviewed Financial and Match Report. Jamie phoned in for review and made a motion to approve Financial and Match Report. Maggie seconded the motion and the motion passed. Board discussed concerns they have with MOU concerning that language should be a little clearer concerning ISWCC employees remaining with ISWCC and not IDWR. Also have concerns regarding IDWR being involuntary and ISWCC being voluntary. Leanne to draft a letter highlighting board's concerns to be approved at next meeting. Mary Huff discussed IASCD survey. Tabled until quorum is present. IASCD will be hosting Zoom calls monthly for district collaboration on the 2nd Monday of every month.

OTHER BUSINESS: Discussed conference November 17-19. Leanne will be going.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Meghan reported: draft of MOU has been released, and they are taking comments from partners until October 16th. Strongly recommend everyone reads MOU and make comments. State Ag projects were all rolled over into the Fed 319 funding pool. Sept or Oct DEQ should be calling for presentation on projects. We will not know what projects are funded until next year. Reminder, it's never too early to look for projects for next year. Districts should receive base and operating funding this month from ISWCC. Financial and Match report due August 16, 2026.

NRCS ACTIVITY REPORT:

Ryan reported: Obligation deadline was July 10th and contracting is finished in Gem County. Funding was dispersed based on regions this year: Emmett, Weiser, Caldwell, Marsing, and Mountain Home. Gem has 4 contracts funded: 1 irrigation, 2 high tunnels, and 1 CSP contract for a total of \$261,000. Another irrigation contract was approved but unfortunately producer was unable to seek agreement with landowner. Emmett and Weiser combined had 26 contracts. Currently exploring other funding avenues through partnerships (RCPP and irrigation projects).

STAFF REPORT:

Leanne's report: Worked on daily office duties. Worked on getting newsletters mailed, Financial and Match Report, and set up a booth. Explained election year change from even to odd.

PLANNING & ZONING:

None

DISTRICT DRILL:

Read email regarding NRCS gate behind building. Unfortunately, building owner will not cover cost to move gate so the drill could be parked in that area.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall Tour September 17, 2026, 9AM at 1857 Hwy 16., Emmett, Idaho.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 1:43PM.

Next meeting is September 14, 2026, at 12:00pm via Zoom.