



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION

Erik Olson
Chairman

Wendy Pratt
Vice-Chair

Karen Sharpnack
Commissioner

Blake Hollingsworth
Secretary/Treasurer

Mitch Silvers
Commissioner

Joan Cloonan,
PhD, JD
Commissioner

Richard Savage
Commissioner

Mathew Weaver
Acting
Administrator

To: Senator Mark Harris
From: Erik Olson, Chairman
Mathew Weaver, Acting Administrator
Date: January 22, 2026

Re: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Support for ISWCC & IDWR Consolidation

Senator Harris,

I am writing in support of your draft concurrent resolution regarding the consolidation of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) into the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). At its January 16 regular meeting, the ISWCC reviewed the draft resolution and passed a motion expressing support for its intent and direction.

The resolution aligns with recent statewide efforts to review policy, statute, and agency structure to ensure effective, efficient, and streamlined government, including the Governor's Executive Order 2025-06, the Idaho Code Cleanup Act, and recommendations of the Idaho DOGE Taskforce. These initiatives reflect a thoughtful approach to evaluating opportunities for improved coordination while maintaining essential functions.

Importantly, the resolution also recognizes the value of the ISWCC's voluntary, non-regulatory, and locally led conservation mission, as well as the importance of preserving the identity and partnership-focused role of conservation districts.

Respectfully,

Erik Olson
Commission Chairman, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Mathew Weaver
Acting Administrator, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources

322 E. Front St., Suite 560 • P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720
P: 208.332.1790 • F: 208.332.1799 • www.swc.idaho.gov

established
1939

Conservation the Idaho Way: sowing seeds of stewardship