

The SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday October 1, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.
79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY 82901

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Mary Thoman, Chairman called to order the meeting of the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) at 4:00 PM on **October 1, 2020**, at the Sweetwater County Conservation District, 79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY 82901

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Mary Thoman, Chairman conducted a roll call and introductions. The following persons were present and via conference call.

Mary Thoman, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Tom Burris, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Doc Wendling, SWC Commission (SWC)
Mark Kot, SWC Planning Office (SWC)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Brandy Dewar, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)

Absent: Joshua Coursey, Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the September 3, 2020 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$14,814.50. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Randy 'Doc' Wendling (SWC)

Gave an update on the Sweetwater County fire crews. The crews are assisting fires in other states. The county warden is a type 3 incident commander in logistics and is currently in California. Fire resources are spread out tight and the county's air response will be housed at the airport.

Reported on Dave Divis, Sweetwater County Assessor, according to the estimates a significant decrease is estimated in mineral valuations. The county is headed towards a 7+ million-dollar deficit in funding. All future spending will be based upon needs not wants and all line items will be looked at.

Justin Caudill, (WDA)

- Reported on budgets for the Department: WDA lost three positions and two employees will be released at the end of the year.
- Reported that water quality contracts are out and the Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) grant funds are still being held.
- Reported on state convention in November and Caudill will try to attend.
- Caudill is a representative on the National Association of Conservation District Agency's (NASCA) reviewing public lands policy and what the priorities and needs are for our area. The group will meet twice a month for the next year. Staff was directed to send the District's LRUPP draft to Caudill.

Mark Kot (SWC)

After following up with the BLM, Kot reported things were dead quiet on the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP). BLM told Kot the Raven Solar Project will be publishing sometime in December.

Unfinished Business

Drop Structure Maintenance

Staff contacted Bryan Englehart, D & D Oilfield Services, Englehart will schedule the grout pour next week and will let the office and Tom Burris know. Staff was directed to contact Larry Folks regarding the landscaping, seeding and reclamation.

Killpecker Creek Assessment

Staff sent the report out electronically and hard copies are available.

Long Range Use Plan & Policy (LRUPP)

The Board received the draft plan and staff will send out the draft plan to the board. An open house for the plan will be scheduled on December 3, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Roads Database Open House

The Board scheduled a work session for December 3, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Kent Felderman will be presenting.

Watershed Based Plan (draft)

The Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan will now be sent to WDEQ for review and comments.

Wyoming Water Development Office – Notice to Proceed

The District received Notice to Proceed letters for two projects from the Wyoming Water Development Commission Small Water Project Program to start construction on the Francis Ditch projects.

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Convention

The convention will be held November 16-19 in Torrington. An in-person event and a virtual component will be available. An agenda will be out soon. Please let staff know if you can attend.

New Business

City of Green River – Letter of Support

A Letter of Support was submitted to support the City of Green River's request for a WDEQ statewide assessment grant for the Brownfield redevelopment. The projects are in line with the District's custom and culture, and beneficial use of water rights in Wyoming.

Trout Unlimited – trees for bank stabilization – support

Nick Walrath, Trout Unlimited Project Manager, is looking for support for the Riverbank stabilization along the Green River by Scots Bottom. The plan is to use a log combo as a means for stabilization along the river bank. Trees from the Green River wind storm will be repurposed to supply riverbank stabilization in some of the areas on the Green River. Staff was directed to follow up with Walrath on estimates of the project.

Supervisors Reports

Mary Thoman

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG). The next CLG Meeting will be October 22, in Kemmerer.
- Attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Area V Meeting in Lyman on September 11.
- Visited with Kent Felderman on the roads database. Thoman will follow up with Kent and Dave Allison on contracting needs.

Tom Burris

- Attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Area V Meeting in Lyman on September 11.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported on the Great American Outdoor Act. The Ashley National Forest is receiving three million a year for updates on maintenance and facilities. Ashley will be prioritizing projects for the next five years.
- Reported on a new forest supervisor for Ashley National Forest. Stephanie will invite the both the district ranger (Curtis Booher) and the forest supervisor to a future SWCCD Board meeting.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Area V Meeting in Lyman on September 11. (virtual)
- Worked on completing the Project Sponsor Checklist Form and Sage Grouse Analysis Sheet for the Small Water Development Projects.
- Submitted a voucher request from WDEQ for the 205J and working on the draft final report for the grant for the Bitter Creek watershed-based plan. The report is due on November 1.
- Received the contract from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for the watershed-based planning and data collection. (\$20,000.)

Public Comments

No public comments.

Information and Education

- Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) drawing for gator tickets are now available for sale at the District Office. \$25.00 apiece.

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater County Conservation District Office, 79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY.

/s/ Mary Thomas Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny