

The SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday November 5, 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 **November 5, 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)
Jean Dickinson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Joshua Coursey, Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Doc Wendling, SWC Commission (SWC)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Dylan Bear, Public
Nick Walrath, Trout Unlimited (TU)

Absent: Tom Burris, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, to approve the October 1, 2020 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$39,459.76. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Reconciliation Report, for April, May, June, July, August, September. Motion carried.

Internal Audit

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, to ratify the audit and proof of cash that was submitted to Wyoming Department of Audit. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Dylan Bear, Community Enhancement Grant Presentation

Dylan presented the Sweetwater Adventure Guide that was created for Sweetwater County and thanked the Board for the grant funds. Dylan worked with Wyoming Game & Fish, Forest Service and the Wyoming Wilderness Association to create the books and over 3,000. were printed.

Nick Walrath, Trout Unlimited, trees for bank stabilization – support

Gave an update on the Green River Urban Habitat Improvement Project located on the Green River. The project will help provide stream bank stabilization. Trout Unlimited secured over 45 large trees from the Green River Cemetery that were blown over by a windstorm. Long Horn Construction and Granite Oil Field were involved in placing the trees into the Green River. The Green River Stabilization Project went to bid as a design build with an engineer and contractor. (WWC out of Laramie). Walrath would like to go to construction on the project in August 2021. The Board is favorable to providing project funds to help with the project. Nick will work with staff and get a budget to the Board in December and staff will schedule a future meeting. Partners include Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI), Iron Mines, Game & Fish, and the City of Green River.

Hillary Walrath, NRCS, is working with Uinta County Conservation District securing grants through the National Association of Conservation District (NACD) to help fund six diversions in Uinta County. The Board would like Hillary to give them an update at a future Board Meeting on potential Sweetwater County diversion structures. (five SWC diversion structure on the Henry's Fork).

Randy 'Doc' Wendling, SWC

- Congratulated Mary Thoman on her new appointment to the Sweetwater County Commission.
- Mark Kot, SWC Planner, will be retiring and the position will not be filled. There were eleven early retirements at the county level and those positions will not be filled.
- Spoke on the shortage of the Sweetwater County budget for fiscal year 2022.

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.
- WDA has decided to hold off on another round of request for proposals (RFP) until after state legislature. There is between 167-187k left in the water quality and rangeland health program.
- Reported on the WLCI Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting will be held via Zoom. WLCI did receive 500k from the state for matching funds.

Unfinished Business

Drop Structure Maintenance

Landscaping seed was ordered, and Larry Folks planted the seed on Monday, November 2, 2020. Pictures were sent to the District of the planting.

Long Range Use Plan & Policy (LRUPP)

- An open house for the plan is scheduled for December 3, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the White Mountain Library.
- Staff was directed to send the comments out to the Board once received.
- Staff was directed to send the Governor's Final Invasive Species Initiative to legal.

New Business

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) – What's up email – NACD SRM Emergency Resolutions recognized the science on the resolution for healthy range lands.

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to support the resolution. Motion carried.

Trout Creek Assessment Report

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to send the report to Russ Hamilton, EDE, and legal for review and comments. Motion carried.

Big Sandy Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment (EA)

A public meeting will be held on November 17, from 5-7 p.m. at the Eden Valley Community Center. Comments are due December 22. Staff was directed to send a copy to Tom Burriss for his review.

Supervisors Reports

Mary Thoman

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG). The next CLG Meeting will be December 10, in Kemmerer. Thoman attended a county federal agency meeting in Rock Springs.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG). The next CLG Meeting will be December 10, in Kemmerer.
- Working with legal on the North Dinosaur Transportation Management Plan in Daggett County on the roads through the Rock Spring Resource Management Plan. (RMP).
- Working on comments for the Wild Horse Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Stephanie Anderson

- The Forest Service will be meeting with Sweetwater County staff in mid-November on projects in the Ashley with grant funding from the Great American Outdoors Act.
- Anderson invited the Forest Service supervisor to a future Conservation District meeting.

Joshua Coursey

- Working on a piece of property south of the Big Firehole road. The entire section has recently been listed for sale and they are working with the landowner and a realtor on 630k acres. The idea is to break up the section into 40-acre parcels. There are sixteen parcels for sale, and they are working to find partners to help purchase.

Supervisor Replacement

The Board of Supervisors provide a nomination to the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture must affirm the nomination.

Staff was directed to draft an advertisement for supervisor recruitment to put in the newspaper, other media and include the effective date of January 1, 2021. Bring back to the December meeting.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Staff was directed to send Dylan Bear information on becoming a SWCCD Associate Supervisor.
- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG). The next CLG Meeting will be December 10, in Kemmerer.
- Working on the draft final report for the grant for the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan. The report was due on November 1.
- Working with Associate Supervisor Dwight Bliss on the internal audit for the Department Audit. The audit was submitted the end of October. Heyborne, Radakovich Accounting completed the proof of cash.
- Staff sent out the 2021 seedling tree applications to qualified landowners. Delivery day will be at the Events Complex. Applications are available on the www.swccd.us website.
- Staff was directed to add Associate Supervisor policy to a future meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments.

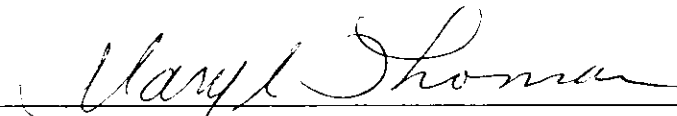
Information and Education

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Convention

The convention will be held November 16-19 in Torrington. UPDAT: The in-person has been cancelled, but a virtual component will be available. Staff will send out the information.

The 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 Joshua Coursey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Open House for the Long-Range Use Plan & Policy will start at 12pm-2pm. Work session for the roads database will begin at 2:30pm-4pm. at the White Mountain Library, 2935 Sweetwater Drive, Rock Springs, WY.

/s/  Chairman

/s/  Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny