

The SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday December 3, 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 **December 3, 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 via conference call and GoToMeeting.

Mary Thoman, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Tom Burris, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Urban Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Joshua Coursey, Treasurer, and At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Dwight Bliss, Associate Supervisor
Dave Allison, SWCCD Consultant (SWC)
Mike Henn, Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD)
Kim Brown, Public
Michele Irwin, Public

Special Recognition

The Board gave special recognition to state award nominees at their December meeting. Those receiving recognition were: Dave Allison, Mike Henn, Kim Brown, Darrell Walker, Justin Caudill, Cat Urbikit, Kent Connelly and Mark Kot. Awards were shipped out thanking them for their commitment to the community, partnerships and their work in natural resource issues.

The Board gave special thanks to Mary Thoman for her dedication and commitment to natural resource needs of Sweetwater County residents over her twenty-one-year career. Mary will be submitting her resignation to the Board on December 30, 2020. The Board wishes her all the best in the future.

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, to approve the November 5, 2020 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Tom Burris, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$11,939.04. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Trout Creek Assessment Report

As requested, Russ Hamilton, EDE, reviewed the report on Trout Creek and the said the report is essentially a comprehensive compilation of the results of a two-year study by WDEQ- Water Quality Division at four sites in the Trout Creek watershed inspired by findings during the 2015 Green River Basin Probabilistic Survey which showed that at least one segment of Trout Creek was physically unstable and this instability was having a detrimental effect on the benthic aquatic life.

Land & Resource Use Plan & Policy (LRUPP) sign and adopt Resolution

- The Board reviewed the Plan at a work session held earlier in the day.
- The Board made edits to the Plan for the addition of Local Work Group to the Local Resource Advisory Committee (LRAC). Mention other groups i.e., BKWAG watershed groups, and other special groups.
- Staff was directed to send the adopted plan and file the final with the Sweetwater County Clerk's office.

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to sign the resolution and adopt the Plan with the addition of adding the LRAC language (page 6 & 16) back into the plan and mention other groups such as the Bitter Creek Watershed Advisory Group, the Local Work Group, Special Watershed Committees and add any other groups that the Board might decide to form. Motion carried.

Roads Database Presentation

On hold until further notice. Thoman will reach out to Kent Felderman.

Watershed Based Plan

The plan is currently being reviewed at WDEQ. WDEQ will have the draft reviewed soon and then EDE will make edits and begin the approval process with WDEQ and collection of signatures etc. The grant agreement expires 12/31/20 and the final reimbursement request is due 1-30-21.

Annual Report

Staff is currently working on the Annual Report and will send a draft out to the Board for their review and comments. The Report is due December 30, 2020.

New Business

Elected Supervisors Oath of Office

Stephanie Anderson and Tom Burris took the oath of office for the Sweetwater County Conservation District Rural Supervisor.

Staff will send a press release out to media. Anderson was requested to send a picture to the office.

Kemmerer Field Office – Pacific Soda Trona Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Tom Burris, to be a cooperator on the Pacific Soda Trona Mine EIS and to designate the SWC Board of Supervisors as the primary contact and include Cody Doig as alternate. Motion carried.

Supervisors Reports

Mary Thoman

- Attended a Zoom meeting for the wild horse EIS and the next CLG meeting will be on Thursday, December 10 in Kemmerer.
- Attended the WACD Virtual Convention and a lot of discussion on the SRM emergency resolution – they adopted the resolution with some wordsmithing.
- Attended two Sweetwater County Commission zoom meetings.
- Attended a WLCI Executive Committee for Conservation Districts. Justin Caudill will help coordinate a phone call and bring forth names to replace Mary Thoman. The next Executive Committee meeting will most likely be in June 2021. Chris Wichman, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, will now be the new Chairman. Local Project Development Team will be in February or March.

Tom Burris

- Attended the Big Sandy Watershed Meeting on the Eden Valley Irrigation District in Farson in November.
- Attended the WACD Virtual Convention via Zoom platform.
- The Board discussed a program for a controlled environment for planting cottonwoods/willows/other varieties trees for local purchase.

The SWCCD Board will submit a letter of support for the Eden Valley Irrigation District.

Jean Dickinson

- Working with legal on the Wild Horse EIS and Ashley National Forest.
- Dickinson asked staff to forward the Board the emails coming from CLG regarding Terrance Manning on coal fired power plants and Climate 21.

Stephanie Anderson

- Attended a recreation stakeholder meeting with Sweetwater County and the stakeholders will meet again the end of January. Anderson commented that she is representing the Forest Service on the Pacific Soda Trona Mine EA and will not be involved through the District.

Joshua Coursey

- Participated in the Wild Horse EIS presentation from the Rock Springs BLM. Coursey is hoping they can accomplish some of the action items that were discussed and move forward with their timelines.
- Submitted an application to be included on the Wild Horse Task Force in Cheyenne from the Governor’s Office. 14- members from different agencies will be represented on that task force

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Attended the virtual Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Meeting.
- Staff was directed to include a calendar of upcoming events and deadlines for the January Board packets.
- Working on the Annual Report and Plan and all end of year reports for the District.
- Working on grant management for the WDEQ 319 205 J and WDA water quality grant.

Public Comments

Michele Irwin commented and gave her congratulations to Mary Thoman, who will be leaving the end of December.

Information and Education

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

/s/ Tom Burris _____ Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson _____ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny