

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday January 7, 2021- 4:00 p.m.
79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY 82901

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Tom Burris, Chairman called to order the meeting of the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) at 4:00 PM on **January 7, 2021**, at the Sweetwater County Conservation District, 79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY 82901

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Tom Burris, Chairman conducted a roll call and introductions. The following persons were present and by teleconference.

Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Joshua Coursey, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Dennis Doncaster, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Henry Bliss, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)
Doc Wendling, Sweetwater County Commission (SWC)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the December 3, 2020 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, to approve as modified the acceptance of the letter of resignation from Mary Thoman's letter to the agenda. Motion carried.

Mary Thoman Resignation

Tom Burris read aloud Mary Thoman's resignation letter and the Board will accept the resignation letter from Mary Thoman.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$22,558.73. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Doc Wendling

The Sweetwater County Board of County Commissioners would like to invite the District to attend the FY 2021-2022 Budget Message workshop scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. for an update on budgets for the county. Dave Divis and Robb Slaughter from the county will be at the workshop to speak about revenue. Wendling said the budget is upwards of 14 million short and there will be significant cuts.

Wendling asked the Board about moving the Conservation District Office to Green River in the back of the Golden Hour Senior Center. The county owns the building and the District could get free rent. The District's current lease expires June 1, 2021. Wendling will contact staff about a tour of the office space.

Justin Caudill

- Caudill wanted to give thanks to the Board for being recognized for "Outstanding Conservationist" at the last Board meeting.
- Reported there is 70k left in the Rangeland Health Assessment Program and a second RFP for the Water Quality Grant Program in the 2021-22 fiscal year budget. There is \$153k available for addressing water quality issues and the deadline is March 15th.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

WDEQ 205 (j) 319 Annual Project Report

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Interim Report

Staff completed and submitted the WDEQ Annual Project Report. The grant was used to update and prepare a Watershed-Based Plan for the Bitter Creek Watershed. Staff completed and submitted the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Interim Report for the Bitter Creek Water Quality Grant.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, to ratify the submission of both reports. Motion carried.

New Business

Reorganizational Meeting

Sweetwater County Conservation District Election of Officers

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey seconded by Jean Dickinson, to nominate Tom Burris as Chairman. The Chairman made three calls for nominations. There being no other nominations. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to nominate Joshua Coursey as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to nominate Jean Dickinson as Treasurer. Motion Carried.

Officers are:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| Tom Burris | - | Chairperson |
| Joshua Coursey | - | Vice Chairman |
| Stephanie Anderson | - | Secretary |
| Jean Dickinson | - | Treasurer |

Stephanie Anderson will remain as Secretary.

The following three **motions** were made by Joshua Coursey seconded by Stephanie Anderson. Motion carried.

1. Sweetwater County Conservation District Banking
RSNB and First Bank will remain the official banks for the District. Motion carried.

2. Sweetwater County Conservation District Official Newspaper
Designate the Rocket Miner newspaper as the official newspaper for the District. Motion carried.

3. Sweetwater County Conservation District Surety Bonding
Pay the Treasurer's bond with Tegeler and Associates and keep Western Surety as the official District bonding company. Motion carried.

4. Sweetwater County Conservation District Mileage Reimbursement
A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to keep the mileage the same as the county rate, effective January 1, 2020, per District Policy, County Policy, and IRS. Motion carried. (56 cents per mile)

Associate Supervisors

Staff will send a letter to current Associates, asking if they would like to remain an Associate Supervisor for 2021.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Tom Burris, to send a letter/email to all Associate Members asking if they would like to remain on the list. Motion carried.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Priorities

- ❖ Water and water quality and listed streams
- ❖ Cooperation in Federal Plans
- ❖ More community enhancement, involvement and outreach

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the Conservation District priorities. Motion carried.

Roads Database

Burris gave an update on the roads database and said Kent Felderman, Rocky Mountain Survey, will have a full copy for the District and the county will receive a copy in two files. (pre-decisional restricted access and public)

What's Up – (email) WACD – Hunter Petsch

Information was included in Supervisor's packets

BLM Rock Springs Field Office – Scoping Statement Figure Four Water Wells 2020 Range Improvement Projects (six)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the comments that were submitted. Motion carried.

Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan (WBP)

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to accept and sign the Watershed Based Plan. Motion carried.

Staff will add the Watershed Based Plan to the SWCCD website and inform the BKWAG members that the plan is available.

Staff will send a copy of the WBP to Cindy Lane, SWC Clerk, for signature and filing.

NRCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Board discussed the MOU. The Board questioned why the appendix refers to the 2008 Farm Bill and noted that we should be operating under the 2018 Farm Bill. Staff was directed to send the MOU back to NRCS for clarification and correction.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- The Board continued the conversation regarding planting trees in Farson with potentially using Vocational Agriculture teachers and students in the area and find out if there would be interest and cooperation from other local Conservation Districts. Caudill will investigate further on funding sources.
- The Board discussed cooperator agency status with USDOl – BLM and USDA-Forest Service to take Mary Thoman's name off the contact list. The suggestion was made to get with Connie's office on how to proceed with removing Thoman's name. Bring the information back to the next Board Meeting. The office email will be the clearing house for all agency correspondence.
- Burris asked if Supervisor's could send staff input on a quarterly basis for articles to include in the Annual Report. (Annual Report will run July 2020 to June 2021)

Jean Dickinson

- Attended the CLG meeting ~~via conference call~~ in Kemmerer, WY. ^(Kp)

Stephanie Anderson

- Attended several Forest Service meetings.

Joshua Coursey

- Attended the CLG meeting via conference call.
- Coursey was notified and selected to the Wyoming Game & Fish Wildlife Taskforce. The Taskforce will be meeting on a monthly basis.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Attended the CLG meeting via conference call.
- Completed all end of year reporting for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) and Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA).
- Working on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) Final Report for the Watershed Based Plan update and completed the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Interim Report for the Bitter Creek Water Quality Grant.
- Online Special District Training is available online at: wyospecialdistricts.com
- Worked on the Annual Report and Pan.

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at Office, 79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY. A

/s/ Tom Burris Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary
//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/