

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 4, 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 **February 4, 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, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Joshua Coursey, Vice-Chairman and At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)
Brandy Dewar, Associate Supervisor
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Rick Breiniger, public
Larry Folks, public
Bonnie Cannon, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)
Michele Irwin, Powder River Resource Council

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Joshua Coursey, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the January 7, 2021 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Joshua Coursey, 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 \$11,418.25. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the reconciliation report for October, November and December 2020. Motion carried.

Sign First Bank and RSNB signature cards – RSNB Control Person

The Board signed the new signature cards from First Bank, RSNB Bank and designation of Control Person for RSNB.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Tom Burris, to designate Karen Pecheny, District Clerk, as the control person for RSNB. Motion carried.

Associate Supervisors

The Board will write a letter of support for Brandy Dewar, Associate Supervisor, for attending Casper College. Staff will put the letter on Conservation District letterhead and send.

Special Reports

Justin Caudill

- Reported on the Conservation District rural supervisor vacancy position. The Board of Agriculture (BOA) needs a letter of resignation from a Board member that is stepping down and a letter of recommendation/form from the Conservation District for a new member for the BOA consideration and action. Caudill said the rural position must be their rural residence.
- Reported on the SWCCD water quality grant for 20k that was recently approved from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture on the Bitter Creek Watershed.

Burris reported that the Board has received several applications and interest for the rural supervisor vacancy position. Staff will add supervisor discussion to the March agenda.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Intent to use lab funds from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) discussion. Board Chairman Burris signed the intent letter and staff will send to WDA. The lab fund allocation is \$3,882. for the 2021-22 Biennium and helps support water quality monitoring on the Lil Sandy through the Sublette County Conservation District.

Contractor Coordination Letter – Pacific & Atlantic Soda Project

A letter was prepared by legal and sent to Kelly Lambom, Project Coordinator, Kemmerer Field Office on Conservation District letterhead.

Cody Doig, Sweetwater County Conservation District representative, has been identified as the backup representative in the preparation of the EIS for the Pacific and Atlantic Soda Project.

NRCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The NRCS office received the District comments and are working through them with their grants and agreement division.

Roads Database Files

The roads database files were transferred to the SWCCD server and the original file is in the fire-proof cabinet.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) comments

Prospects for improvement on the Integrated Resource Plan Process through rulemaking.
1-22-2021

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

WACD Legislative Update #1, #2, #3

Information was included in supervisor's packets.

Community Enhancement Grant – Discuss and Advertise

The Board discussed the Community Enhancement Grant. Staff will advertise the grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due on April 1, 2021.

Salmon Run Subdivision – soils information

Associate Supervisor Bliss gave an update on the soil information request that was received from Uinta Engineering and Surveying, Inc. The soil information was located on the WebSoilSurvey and was submitted to the surveying company. The subdivision is located in Sweetwater County by Washam, WY.

Open Records Request / Wyoming Open the Books

Received request on (1-27-21) and responded to their records request. Staff will work on getting the information out to American transparency. *“Pursuant to the Open Records Act, this is a request for a copy of the following records: An electronic copy of 'any' and 'all' vendor (transfer of property or services) payee payments for the year 2020.”*

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Reported on an outreach program to potential stakeholders from the Sweetwater County Outdoor Recreation Collaborative, which is convened through Wyoming State Parks. Sweetwater County would like the District to be involved with this project and the next meeting will be on February 24 at 6:00 p.m. Burris will attend on behalf of the District. The goal of the collaborative is to use outdoor recreation as a means to grow and diversify Wyoming's economy.
- Roy Lloyd, SWC Commissioner, will be the District's new liaison and Mary Thoman, SWC Commissioner, will be the budget representative for the District.
- Reported on the Farson lateral 3 canal. The contract to change the elevation of the dam begins in March and construction should start sometime in August.
- Attended a meeting in Farson with the Vocational Agriculture students, principal and teacher regarding planting trees in Farson.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended the CLG meeting in Kemmerer, worked on cooperator agency status updates from legal and worked with staff on District Treasurer duties.

Stephanie Anderson

- Attended several Forest Service meetings.

Joshua Coursey

- Reported on the Sweetwater County Outdoor Recreation. The group is looking at all recreational opportunities for the county. The county would like to see a trail system from Bitter Creek and Rock Springs to Green River. Coursey said more information should be coming in after the February 24 meeting. (see LRUPP under trails, roads, etc.)
- Reported on being appointed to the Wildlife Task Force and was recently made public. The appointment is not affiliated with Muley Fanatics Foundation and was appointed as a sportsman position. The task force will not be starting until they can have in person meetings. (June/July).

Information and Education

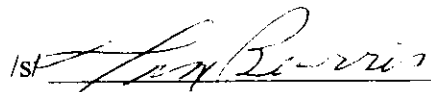
- Special District Training will be held in Cheyenne, February 24-25. The online registration form is located at <https://forms.gle/xBSJVA5PeViESh1E6>.

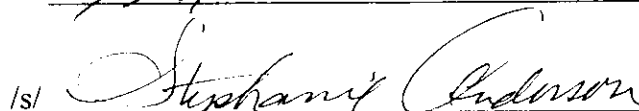
Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Attended the CLG meeting and the Sweetwater County Budget Workshop via conference call.
- Sent a copy of the Watershed Based Plan and the LRUPP to Cindy Lane, SWC Clerk, for signature and filing.
- Sent a press release for the rural supervisor's position to media.
- Received a FOIA request from Open the Books - American Transparency for FY 2020 for vendor payee/payments and employee earnings.
- Attended a meeting in Farson with the VO Agriculture students on tree planting.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 79 Winston Drive, Suite 103, Rock Springs, WY. A

/s/  _____ Chairman

/s/  _____ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/