

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday August 12, 2021- 4:00 p.m.  
550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

**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 **August 12, 2021**, at the Sweetwater County Conservation District, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

**Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Tom Burris, Chairman,** a roll call and introductions. The following persons were present.

Tom Burris, Chairman, and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)  
Larry Folks, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)  
Dwight Bliss, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Roy Lloyd, (SWC Commission)  
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the July 1, 2021 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to add discussion to appoint a Vice-Chairman to SWCCD under New Business and approve the agenda. 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 \$18,435.42. Motion carried.

**Reconciliation Report**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the reconciliation report for April, May and June 2021. Motion carried.

### Budget Hearing minutes

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the budget hearing minutes from July 14. Motion carried.

### 2021 F-32 Survey of Local Governments Form

Staff sent the Wyoming Department of Audit F-32 form, QuickBooks backup and bank statements to the accountant. The form is due September 30 to the state.

### Special Reports

#### Roy Lloyd, SWC Commission

Lloyd reported that the Commission will start to call in each agency to discuss their goals and missions. This will help the county create strategic plans for future county budgets and budget cuts.

Lloyd spoke on sending his condolences to the late Senator Enzi's untimely bike accident and his commitment to Wyoming's natural resources.

#### Jeff Lewis, NRCS (written report)

#### Conservation Planning

Currently, we are inspecting projects that are being installed and surveying some potential projects for 2022.

#### Farm Bill Activities

We are out doing inventory for potential projects for 2022.

#### Staff Coordination

Courtney has been doing inventory for potential projects and also making payments.

#### Justin Caudill, WDA

- Sent out Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Rangeland Health Assessment Program. (RHAP)
- Caudill will send information to the Board on stream restoration using rock structures for the Killpecker Creek tributaries.
- Caudill handed out information: "Wild Horse and Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics are Adversely Affected by Overabundant Feral Horses." The USGS provides a quantitative link between feral horses exceeding Appropriate Management Levels and population changes in sage-grouse. The publication "[\*Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics are Adversely Affected by Overabundant Feral Horses\*](#)" is part of a larger special issue on horses recently released by the Journal of Wildlife Management. The study finds that sage-grouse populations may decline by more than 70% within free-roaming horse-occupied areas by 2034 if horse populations increase unchecked at current rates but reducing horse numbers could neutralize their negative impacts.

Previous research indicates that sage-grouse have experienced substantial population declines within the arid sagebrush environments due to steady and continued habitat loss. Habitat degradation by free-roaming horses is just one of the many threats to sage-grouse, an indicator species associated with the overall health of the sagebrush ecosystem.

#### Associate Supervisors

- Bliss is working on a 5-year financial plan/forecast for the District and is looking for input/ideas for projects from SWCCD Board members.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### Drop Structure Maintenance

Folks continues to reach out to D&D Oilfield Services/Contractor regarding the drop structure maintenance. D&D has been extremely busy on other projects.

##### Killpecker Creek

In 2020, Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) completed a field assessment of the Killpecker Creek main channel and its significant tributaries to identify areas where headcutting and erosion are actively occurring and to document channel conditions at intervals along Killpecker Creek. Discussion included use of boulders (Caudill will send information on stream restorations using rock structures) on Killpecker Creek channels near Farson and Killpecker Creek spreader dikes.

##### Draft Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP)

SWCCD Consultant sent the Draft Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP) for the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Interim and Follow-up Sampling for Fiscal 2022-2028 Water Quality Evaluation (BCWSAP) to Jillian Scott with WDEQ for review. The review from DEQ is now complete and SWCCD Consultant will now make those changes.

Consultant will be conducting the September water quality sampling on Bitter/Killpecker Creek under the 2016 Sampling Plan.

##### Annual Awards Program

Staff will submit the names with writeups to WACD for state award consideration.

##### Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD) and Sweetwater County Conservation District Boundary Discussion

The work session with Little Snake River Conservation District has been postponed to a later time. Staff will send out updates from LSRCD and notify the Board of a new date.

## New Business

### Pre-Decisional -CLG comments

- Delegation Letter for Ashley National Forest – Cynthia Lummis, Senator, Washington
- Letter to Governor Gordon on Carbon Capture Storage
- Proposed Bighorn Sheep Forest Plan Amendment for the Bridger Teton

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

### Annual Base Funding Requirements

Staff worked on the state funding checklist that is required from all Wyoming Conservation Districts to receive base funding for FY 2022. (\$8,824) from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The first deadline is August 31. Staff has submitted all the base funding requirements for August.

### Area V Meeting

The Area V Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, in Afton, hosted by Star Valley Conservation District. Staff will send out the information when it becomes available.

### Reschedule SWCCD September Board Meeting

After discussion, the Board scheduled their September Board meeting for Thursday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m.

### Preliminary Plat – Lagoon Subdivision

SWCCD received a Preliminary Plat for the Lagoon Subdivision. Staff will work on submitting soil comments to the Sweetwater County Land Use Office.

### Vice-Chairman Discussion

Burris brought up the need for appointing a Vice-Chairman. Burris said if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not available the Secretary will chair the meeting. All three remaining Board members must be present/phone call for a quorum, according to Roberts Rules of Order. The Board discussed waiting to appoint a Vice-Chairman until the Board of Agriculture approves Henry Bliss to the At-Large position.

## **Supervisors Reports**

### Tom Burris

- Attended the SWCCD Budget Hearing held on July 14.
- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting in Lyman. Uinta County would be the base of the CLG. The next meeting will be on August 19.

### Jean Dickinson

- Working on Travel Management Plan, Ashley National Forest Service and Sage Grouse Focal Area comments.

### Stephanie Anderson

- Attended the Daggett Soil Conservation District meeting in Manila, Utah.
- Reported on wild horse issues on the Cedar Mountain Grazing Allotment as horses are multiplying and becoming quite a nuisance.
- Attended the SWCCD Budget Hearing held on July 14.
- Anderson reported that she will be starting to work on the Flaming Gorge Management Plan for the Ashley National Forest.

### Larry Folks

- Appreciates and looks forward to Conservation District Board member reports.
- Folks is very concerned about the drought and does not think he has ever seen it this dry as he travels around Sweetwater County. Folks said it will take quite some time for the desert to recover.
- Attended the SWCCD Budget Hearing held on July 14.

## **Staff Reports**

### Karen Pecheny

- Attended the SWCCD Budget Hearing held on July 14.
- Submitted the resignation from Board Supervisor Joshua Coursey and the appointment for Henry Bliss to the vacant At-Large Supervisor position to WDA. The Board of Agriculture has tentatively set a September meeting.
- Working on the state funding checklist that is required from all Wyoming Conservation Districts to receive funding for FY 2021. (\$8,824) from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The first deadline is August 31.

- Working on the District’s newsletter and will send out and add the Uinta County Conservation District Soil Health Day flyer which is September 8, in Lonetree WY.
- Reported on the WDA Bitter Creek water quality data collection grant, which expires 12-31-21. SWCCD sampling week of September 13 - EDE Consultants will conduct water quality sampling, watershed conditions monitoring, and data analysis and reporting for the SWCCD. Staff will use the grant for the monitoring work.
- Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) fundraiser: Gator tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 each.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Information and Education

The Bureau of Land Management is planning to gather and remove approximately 3,555 wild horses from the Adobe Town, Salt Wells Creek, Great Divide Basin, White Mountain and Little Colorado herd management areas this fall. The gather is necessary to return the five Horse Management Areas (HMAs) to the appropriate management level, and any mares released back into the HMAs will be treated with fertility control. The BLM plans to start gathering horses in early October.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on September 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater County Conservation District Office 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/