

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 8, 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 at 4:00 PM on **December 8, 2021**.

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Larry Folks, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Randy Shipman, Public
Roy Lloyd, Sweetwater County Commission (SWC)

Absent: Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the November 4, 2021 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$14,404.11. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Roy Lloyd, SWC Commission

- Reported on the commission scheduling special budget sessions for agencies and reported that first quarter revenue/numbers look a lot better due to trona production. New numbers for the second quarter will be out in January 2022.
- The commission will start talking to agencies earlier, potentially starting in January 2022.

Justin Caudill, WDA

- Reported on and attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) annual Convention held in Cody.
- Reported on the Conservation District Supervisor Training and a legislative tour to be held in late February 2022. The Wyoming Association of Special Districts are able to attend the training this year.
- Caudill reported on a new round of Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be out in March 2022 for the State of Wyoming Water Quality Grant Program. Districts are eligible to apply for the funding.

Jeff Lewis, NRCS, (written report)

- Reported on the 2022 EQIP signed up ended on Monday. NRCS received nine applications for Sweetwater County and seven applications for Uinta County.
- Courtney Thomas is working on processing the applications.
- Jeff and Courtney processed all the existing Sage Grouse Initiatives (SGI) contracts.

Unfinished Business

Bitter Creek Drop Structure Maintenance

Folks will follow up with Mike Brown, Inberg Miller Engineers, about finding a contractor to help with the maintenance.

Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP) for Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Interim & Follow up Sampling for Fiscal 2022-2028 (BCWSAP)

EDE Consultants submitted the final SAP. The SAP has been approved, signed and submitted to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. (WDEQ)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the SAP. Motion carried.

District Website and IT Discussion

The Board discussed the upgrade and redesign work to the professional website and purchase of TV equipment for teleconferencing. A budget amendment maybe needed to transfer monies from the Operations budget to the Administration budget later in the fiscal year.

Design: \$2,955.00 / One time

Support: \$56.99 / 4 weeks

Hosting: \$75.75 / year

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the upgrade to the District's website using the existing platform and hosting company and the TV equipment purchase for teleconference capabilities. Motion carried.

SWCCD Annual Report & Plan

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve and submit the Annual Report and Plan to the Department of Agriculture. Motion carried.

New Business

Pre-Decisional - CLG comments

Consideration of Sidel Global Environmental's Carbon Capture Utilization System 11-24-2021

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

Wyoming State Office Cooperating Agency Request for the proposal to withdraw Sagebrush Focal Areas

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to ratify the Cooperating Agency Request letter that was submitted. Motion carried.

Sweetwater County Facilities Use Agreement

Bliss is reviewing the Sweetwater County Facilities Use Agreement. Bliss will send out an email to the Board regarding the questions on the use form.

Ronick Subdivision

Received a request from JFC Engineering to obtain a soils report for the replat of the Ronick Subdivision at the former Teds Supper Club property at 9 Purple Sage Road. To recap: the owner of Lot 1 of the existing Ronick Subdivision wishes to divide that property into two independent lots. They are proposing to accomplish the split by following the county's REPLAT process.

Staff and Supervisor Bliss is working on comments and soils information to send to JFC Engineers.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Water Quality Grant – expires 12-31-21

- Bitter Creek Water Quality Data Collection June 2019 – December -2021. 20k with 6k match. The grant was used to update the watershed-based plan for Bitter Creek, working with WDEQ to address the chloride impairment, monitoring to address the chloride and E. coli data collection and updated the project sampling and analysis plan (SAP)

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Spoke at convention in the forestry committee about local FFA students and the tree planting program that was recently started in Farson. Burris said there were other Districts interested in the program due to low tree inventories at nurseries.
- Burris attended the November Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) Meeting held in Lyman. The next CLG Meeting will be December 16, in Lyman.

Jean Dickinson

- Worked with legal on the Cooperating Agency Request for the District on the Sage Brush Focal Areas from the BLM Wyoming State Office.
- Worked on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ashley National Forest.

Larry Folks

- Folks attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting held in Lyman.
- Attended the Flaming Gorge Public Meeting in Green River held at the library.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss helped staff with the soils report for the Ronick Subdivision and worked on the Annual Report and Plan.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Worked on the Annual Report and Plan and all end of year reports for the District.
- Working on the Bitter Creek Water Quality Data Collection grant. The grant expires December 30, 2021. All grant monies have been expended. (20k with 6k match)
- Working on 2022 access agreements and permissions for landowners to record conduct soils and water quality monitoring within the Bitter Creek watershed. The District would like to renew permission for their personnel or designated consultant to enter property you own or represent to access monitoring site locations and collect channel condition information and/or water quality and/or native soil samples along Killpecker Creek.
- Sending out the Use Pattern Analysis (UPA) notification letter to the project contact list. SWCCD is seeking interested parties to assist in a project to identify and develop voluntary management measures with a goal of helping to reduce *E. coli* concentrations within Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek. The project will seek to decrease sources of *E. coli* associated with wildlife, livestock, and wild horses along the streams.

Public Comments

Randy Shipman

Reported on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; to authorize funds for federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Signed November 15, 2021, by the President of the United States.

Shipman reviewed the upcoming carbon impacts and timelines to local entities and how those impacts could affect local conservation districts. (phase in to net zero carbon emissions by 2050)

Shipman pointed to the “Drought Contingency Plan Funding Requirement” section which is part of the Colorado River system. Shipman said to make yourselves aware of the language in the bill.

Information & Education

Information was included in Supervisor packets.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on January 6, 2022, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ _____Chairman

/s/ _____Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/