

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday January 6, 2022- 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 **January 6, 2022**, at the Sweetwater County Conservation District, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

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)
Larry Folks, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Randy Shipman (Associate Supervisor)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the December 8, 2021 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$20,262.92. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Final Grant Report

Staff completed and submitted the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Final Report for the Bitter Creek Water Quality Data Collection Grant. The grant expired 12-30-21

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to ratify the submission of the final report. Motion carried.

SWC Facilities Use Agreement

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to sign and submit the Facilities Use Agreement, along with supporting documents. Motion carried.

Sagebrush Focal Area EIS – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The District is waiting on the draft MOU from the Bureau of Land Management, WY State Office.

New Business

Reorganizational Meeting

Sweetwater County Conservation District Election of Officers

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to nominate Larry Folks as Vice Chairman. The Chairman made three calls for nominations. There being no other nominations. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to elect the slate of officers by acclamation. Motion carried.

Officers are:

- Tom Burris - Chairman
- Larry Folks - Vice Chairman
- Stephanie Anderson - Secretary
- Jean Dickinson - Treasurer
- Henry Bliss - Member

The following four **motions** were made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, 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

Keep the mileage the same as the county rate, effective January 1, 2022, per District Policy, County Policy, and IRS. Motion carried. (cents per mile)

Associate Supervisors

Staff will send a letter to current associates, asking if they would like to remain an Associate Supervisor for 2022. Staff will add the VoAg/FFA program to the list for recruitment.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Priorities

- ❖ Water and water quality and listed streams
- ❖ Coordinate in local, state and federal land planning and implementation
- ❖ More community enhancement, involvement and outreach

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Conservation District priorities as amended. Motion carried.

WACD December update (email)

- Information was included in Supervisor's packets. Staff was requested to ask WACD about redistricting and how it will affect Sweetwater County, from a legislative standpoint.

BLM Pinedale Field Office (PFO) – Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation Letter

SWCCD received notice regarding the PFO evaluation of its RMP. A draft evaluation report will be made available for a 30-day public comment period slated for the Summer of 2022. Legal will be working on these comments.

Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD) 2022 Small Water Projects in Eastern Sweetwater County

Five applications total: \$175,000.

- Red Desert-Rasmussen #2 Stock Water Well - 20N 95W Sec 33
- Solar Conversions - 60, 61, 65, 66 - 19N 95W Sec 5, 19N 95W Sec 22, 20N 98W Sec 29, 19N 99W Sec 2
- Solar Conversions - 62, 63, 64, 67, - 20N 97W 27, 20N 97W 27, 20N 97W 15, 20N 99w, 10
- Solar Conversions - 68, 69, 70, 72 - 21N 98W 13, 22N 98W, 4, 24N 99W 34, 24N 97W 3
- Solar Conversions - 71, 73, 74, 75 - 24N 98W 1, 25N 97W 22, 25N 99W 16, 25N 100W 28
- Solar Conversions - There are 16 sites divided up into 4 projects.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve and ratify the 2022 small water projects submitted by LSRCD. Motion carried.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman.

Jean Dickinson

- Working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and SWCCD cooperator contacts for the Ashley National Forest (ANF). Legal is working on this.
- Working on the Sage Grouse Focal Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Spoke with the Little Snake River Conservation District. (LSRCD) The Board and staff will be attending the February 3rd SWCCD work session meeting.

Stephanie Anderson

- Attended and reported on the Flaming Gorge Public Census Meeting. The Forest Service has a contractor and received very good, public input at the meeting.
- The District Ranger will be leaving for another position, and that could lead to Anderson not being able to participate in Conservation District activities for 120 days. Anderson will notify staff if she is unable to attend meetings.

Larry Folks

- Spoke with Bryan Englehart, D&D Construction, regarding the maintenance on the drop structure. Folks would like to see the maintenance completed as soon as possible.

Henry Bliss

- Worked with staff on making upgrades to the District's website.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Completed all end of year reporting for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) and Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA).
- Working on and completed the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Final Grant Report for the Bitter Creek Water Quality Data Collection Grant.
- Staff and Supervisor Bliss started on the upgrade to the district's website, after consolidating some pages, the new cost is now \$2,555.00. Staff and Bliss will be working closely with the web designer on a new home page and updating material to the site.

- Attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation District State Convention in Cody - November 29 - December 1st.
- Gave an update on the WDA Watershed-Based Planning and Data Collection Grant. The grant is for 20k with a 6k match and runs until December 30, 2022. Staff is working on the interim report that is due on March 1st. The District is spending match money for the grant at the January 6, District Board Meeting.
- Reported on the City of Green River and School District #2 land swap. The school district owns property near the Golden Hour Senior Center. The district would like to swap their land for a portion of land located just east of the horse corrals. The district would like to build several barn structures to expand the hands-on part of the FFA program. Staff will monitor the proposal and suggest to the school district to submit a Community Enhancement Grant Application.
- Attended a Wyoming Association of Special District (WASD) statewide meeting. (virtual)
 - ❖ Budget messages are required by statute and are looked at pretty closely. The first two things the Wyoming Department of Audit look at is your budget message and your census. The census (F-32) is given to the legislative body every year and goes to Washington D.C
 - ❖ Special Districts were geared towards how to operate, but not geared as how to operate as a business. It's not just a District Board, it's a business.
 - ❖ Open up dialogue with your County Commissioners and let them know that Districts are another form of government.
 - ❖ WASD is currently planning and developing a video to help guide special districts with declining revenues.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. with a work session scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/  Chairman

/s/ _____ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/