

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 3, 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 **February 3, 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.

Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chair and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Urban Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Clerk (SWCCD)
Randy Shipman Associate Supervisor
Roy Lloyd, SWC Commission
Mary Thoman, SWC Commission
Justin Caudill, WDA
Rick Breininger, Associate Supervisor

Absent: Stephanie Anderson, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the January 6, 2022 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to amend the agenda to add the LSRCD boundary discussion under Unfinished Business. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$18,372.41. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Reconciliation Report for October, November, December 2021. Motion carried.

Special Report

Roy Lloyd, SWC Commission

- Reported the Commission is making changes to the agency liaisons and also putting a two-year time limit to allow for diversity. Lloyd shared that he would still like to attend district meetings. Staff will continue to send the agenda.
- Shared the new fiscal year 2023 budget request form with the District. The new system will help the commission better educate themselves and score the agencies. Lloyd reported that they are seeing a positive increase in mineral royalties across the board.

Justin Caudill, WDA

- Working on the supervisor training that will be held February 22-24 in Cheyenne.
- Reported on the WLCI Local Project Development Team Meeting to be held on February 16. (via Zoom) funding (\$50) million allocated to the USF&W Service over a five-year period.
- Reported on the Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be out in March for water quality grants for Conservation Districts.

Mary Thoman, SWC Commission

- Reported on working on a Sweetwater County Land Use Plan for the county. Thoman is looking for names from the district for the committee to work on the plan. The plan must go through the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) so this will be done on an aggressive time schedule.

Randy Shipman, Associate Supervisor

- Reported on and handed out Title VIII – Natural Resource-Related Infrastructure Wildfire Management, and Ecosystem Restoration from the Infrastructure Bill. Shipman will continue to monitor the bill as it relates to the district and funding.

Rick Breiniger, Associate Supervisor

- Staff will add Rick Breiniger to the Associate Supervisor list, and Rick would like to help out with the District's seedling tree program.
- Shared his father's Korean Peace Medal and was able to attend the ceremony recently held in Cheyenne. (posthumously)

Jeff Lewis, NRCS (written report)

- Working with a producer on a fairly large pipeline (36" HDPE) that is about a mile long. It's not very often you get to work on projects like this.
- Farm Bill Activities: Continuing the "grind" on 2022 EQIP applications.
- NRCS has been given approval to attend the **Local Work Group** meeting. Need to schedule a meeting for March or April. We will need to run an advertisement in the newspapers and get the word out, just like the previous meetings.

Again, this shouldn't be a very long meeting, as we know the priorities, and other than changing in order or priority, they pretty much stay the same as the previous years.

- Courtney is also continuing the “grind” on 2022 EQIP applications.
- Mike Ivers was terminated a month ago for refusing to get the COVID shots. He was the new civil engineering technician (CET) for less than a year, before getting terminated. I'm not sure if they are going to replace him or not. Finding a person qualified to be a CET is not easy, even though they do not require a college degree.
- Because of the increase in numbers of COVID cases, our offices are down to one person/per agency and we have no visitors.
- We are also told not to attend any meetings without approval because of the COVID numbers rising. This isn't my idea; this comes straight from headquarters.
- Only 10 or less NRCS personal were allowed to attend the Area Meeting and the Convention.
- We are under no travel restrictions and if we need to attend a meeting, we need to get permission, which is denied about 95% of the time.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Folks met with Bryan Englehart, D&D Construction, to recommend maintenance options on the Drop Structure Project. The cost of the proposal is \$32k.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to direct Larry Folks to work with D&D Construction and Mike Brown, Inberg Miller Engineers, to assess and check the structure and consider options for maintenance. Motion carried.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Lab Funds

Staff completed and submitted the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Lab Funds Request for the Little Sandy water quality monitoring completed by Sublette County Conservation District. (SCCD invoice paid)

Little Snake River and Sweetwater County Conservation District Boundary Lines

After Discussion:

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to take the proposed boundary from LSRCDC and keep working, clarifying and move forward with the boundary, resolutions and the timeline. Motion carried. With Bliss voting nay.

There was a concern that SWCCD has not received detailed reports from LSRCDC for technical assistance in the shared area. Staff will contact LSRCDC regarding generating a report.

Once the boundary is approved through the Board of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture will send a notification letter of the boundary change to the Secretary of State. Each respective District's will need to report to the Department of Audit, County Clerk and Assessor's Office.

Sweetwater and Little Snake will continue to move forward with boundary conversations and schedule a time to have the conversation.

Sagebrush Focal Area EIS – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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

New Business

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

- Draft EA for Fertility Control Application for Wild Mares in the Stewart Creek HMA Area 1-17-22
- Proposed rule for standards for Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review. 1-31-22

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

Bureau of Land Management EIS – Cooperator Agency Request for the proposal to amend the Land Use Plans for the Conservation of Greater Sage Grouse Habitat

The Board reviewed the letter for SWCCD accepting the cooperating agency request for the Sage Grouse Land Use Plan Revisions.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the submission for the cooperator agency request. Motion carried.

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 4, 2022

WACD Legislative Update #1

Information was included in Supervisor packets.

Determine Topics and Schedule County Commission Meeting

The Board discussed meeting with the County Commissioners at the February 15, Commission Meeting. Tom Burriss, Henry Bliss, Karen Pecheny will attend the meeting. Staff will submit the meeting request form for placement on their agenda. Burriss will coordinate with staff on topics.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

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

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman. SWCCD staff will fill-in with taking notes at the CLG meetings.
- Reported and working on the comments for the Ashley National Forest (ANF) and the Vernal USDOI-RMP – Dinosaur North Travel Management Plan along with the Sage Grouse Focal Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All the Resource Management Plans (RMP's) will need to be opened up and redone.

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.
- Folks will attend the Green River Wastewater Treatment Plant Parcel Meeting to be held February 9th.

Henry Bliss

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

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Staff and Supervisor Bliss worked on upgrading the SWCCD District website.
- Sent producers information on the 2017 Trichomoniasis Board Order from the Wyoming Livestock Board.
- Working on updating access agreements with landowners for the water quality monitoring in the Bitter Creek Watershed.
- Requested lab funding from the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture for payment to Sublette County CD for water quality sampling on the Little Sandy River.
- Submitted the Bitter Creek Watershed Use Pattern Analysis Project Plan letter to local entities and landowners to participate in the UPA (as identified as a *first step* under management measure 4 of the BCWBP). Worked on the WDA grant for the Watershed based planning and data collection project. Grant expires 12-30-2022 – interim report due 3-1-2022

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ Tom Berries Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//submitted by Karen Pecheny/