

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday June 2, 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 **June 2, 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)  
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)  
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)  
Rick Breining, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Roy Lloyd, SWC Commissioner (SWC)  
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) phoned in report

Absent: Larry Folks, and Stephanie Anderson, Supervisors

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the May 5, 2022 regular and work session 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.

**Budget Amendment**

Chairman Burris opened the public hearing, hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Due to unanticipated expenditures in the administration budget, totaling \$4,000. It has been determined that the funds need to be transferred from the operations budget to the Administration Budget within the 2021-22 SWCCD Budget.

Expenditure Increase Administration (Office): \$4,000.

Expenditure Decrease Operations Budge: (\$4,000)

Following discussion:

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the budget amendment as presented. The amendment would increase the administration budget to \$105,000.00 and decrease the operations budget to \$116,160.00. Motion carried.

Staff will send the amended budget to the state and county per Department of Audit requirements.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$29,393.49. Motion carried.

### **Sweetwater County Budget FY 2023**

The SWCCD Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 13, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference. Staff will send out a reminder.

### **Reserve Account End of Year for fiscal year 2022**

#### **SWCCD Reserve Amount**

Staff went over the reserve funds for the district for end of year 2022. The District has \$47,223.69 held in reserves. (\$18,000.00 are WDA Grant funds – Assigned) The funds are held in emergency reserves (not committed) and are held for unexpected expenses that may arise during the fiscal year and will note the expenditure in the minutes by Board motion.

### **State Budget FY 2023**

Staff submitted the proposed budget by June 1. The final budget is due by July 30.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to ratify the draft budget that was submitted. Motion carried.

### **Special Reports**

#### **Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture**

- Received eleven applications for the 1st Request for Proposals for the Water Quality Grant Program. All eleven-water quality application have moved forward to the Board of Agriculture. The Board will meet again in July. (Sweetwater submitted an application for Bitter Creek)
- Reported on the Range Health Assessment Program (RHAP) program. There will be 70k available for that program.
- Caudill spoke about the Wyoming Game & Fish application for the WLCI Sweetwater Local Project Development Team on the Sweetwater Solar Farm. (off Highway 372). In an effort to modify the fences prior to the upcoming winter. Game and Fish is working with the company and has recently agreed to provide funding to reduce impacts of antelope migration caused by their fences.

Rick Breininger, Associate Supervisor

Helped with the “Trees for Recyclables” event at the Ray Lavoto Center.

Roy Lloyd

- Reported the commission will hold a budget workshop on June 6, and the public budget hearing meeting will be held on June 23.
- The commission will vote on and approve the County’s Land Use Plan on Tuesday, June 7.

**Unfinished Business**

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

BKWAG Meeting and WDA Grant review

Staff reported that Ron Steg, WDEQ, gave an update on the EPA final report at the BKWAG meeting. Steg reported that WDEQ is expecting a final report soon and WDEQ will be reviewing the report.

Burris reported that EDE Consultants will be doing the Bitter Creek water quality monitoring on June 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>.

WDA Grants: Staff update

The District recently applied for a water quality grant through the Department of Agriculture grant program for the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Implementation. (FY 2023-24) (\$20,000. + \$6,000. Match)

The District currently has two existing water quality grants.

- Watershed -Based Planning & Data Collection - through December 2022. (\$20,000. + \$6,000. Match)
- Bitter Creek Watershed Sampling<sup>44</sup> & BMP Evaluations (Time frame of the grant: June 2021-June 2024) (\$20,000. + \$6,000. Match)

Project goals include:

- Work with WDEQ to assess and assign sampling locations for collection of water quality data to address the chloride impairment with a TMDL or site-specific criteria.
- Conduct monitoring of selected sampling locations, data review, and preliminary reporting of the findings as defined in the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan.
- Identify possible BMP and locations for implementation, through monitoring and data review.
- Provide support to WDEQ in preparing chloride TMDL or site-specific criteria reports.
- Use data from this and historic monitoring to address and implement BMP developed in the 2021 Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan.

### EDE Notes on Land Transfer

This land transfer results in about 749 sq. mi. (or about 34%) of the Bitter Creek watershed being removed from SWCCD and moved into LSRCD. This includes removal from SWCCD portions of the headwaters of Bitter Creek (including both Patrick Draws, Long Draw, Piney Creek Wash, Antelope Creek, Eagle Nest Draw, Laney Wash, and Red Draw), and portions of the headwaters of Salt Wells Creek and Black Butte Creek.

The SWCCD Bitter Creek watershed project SAP (2021) includes the ability for SWCCD monitoring personnel to sample in what is now the LSRCD area of Bitter Creek. If LSRCD has an interest in sampling in their portion of the Bitter Creek watershed they may be able to do so under the SWCCD SAP following a couple minor adjustments (addition of sampling personnel, equipment, etc.).

The Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan (2021) includes the LSRCD portion of the watershed in discussion, details, and planning. Management measures listed in the plan, such as the use pattern analysis and wild horse BMP review, have study areas extending to Antelope Creek in the LSRCD. Information on implementation of management measures from the watershed-based plan should be shared/copied to the LSRCD as appropriate.

### Response from Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD):

SWCCD's consultant found a minor omission of the sec 34 in the legal description below. This was in describing the county line between Carbon and Sweetwater Counties. It is a "clerical" correction in describing the county line not a substantive correction. It does not change the boundary nor the acres or area involved in the transfer. Then east on the county line to the S.E. corner of T 20 N and R 90 W, sec. 34

A corrected petition of the legal description of the boundary change has been submitted to SWCCD. (clerical error)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to accept Attachment "A" corrected petition legal description of the boundary change. Motion carried.

After discussion, SWCCD will contact EDE to let them know that the sampling in the Bitter Creek Watershed will continue and no changes are needed as SWCCD and LSRCD have a mutual agreement in place.

### EDE Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan Proposal

EDE submitted a proposal to conduct Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan work and additional work for SWCCD during Fiscal 2023. The number of tasks is the same as in the draft proposal, but have added language indicating that ten primary tasks will be conducted, and the remaining 4 tasks will only be addressed if budget is available.

After discussion, SWCCD would like to see the budget reduced and monitoring timelines added.

## **New Business**

### **Small Water Project (Sweetwater County – through Little Snake River CD)**

The Board discussed approving the Red Wash Stock Water Well 19-97-35

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve and ratify the small water project that was submitted by LSRCD to Wyoming Water Development. Motion carried.

### **Governor's Consistency Review Letter – Wild Horse Amendment**

The Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) will be working on comments.

### **SWC Facility Use Agreement**

Staff will follow up on the agreement. The agreement expires 6-30-2022.

## **Supervisors Reports**

### **Tom Burris**

- Attended the Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) Meeting.
- Reported on and attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting in Lyman. The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 17.

### **Jean Dickinson**

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting in Lyman and worked on comments for the Ashley National Forest Plan and wild horses.
- The Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) cooperater agency meeting will be held on June 22 at the Rock Springs Field Office. Representatives from CLG will be made available.

### **Henry Bliss**

- Attended the Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) Meeting.
- Working on IT work for the District

**Staff Reports**

Karen Pecheny

- Worked on and submitted the proposed budget to the Department of Audit. The proposed budget was due by June, 1, 2022.
- Attended the Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) Meeting.
- Presented a Community Enhancement check to School District #2, FFA program for the initial construction of the Agricultural Learning Facility in Green River. (210 East Teton).
- Staff will be on vacation June 21-24.

Public Comments

No Public Comments

Information and Education

Information was included in supervisors' packets.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

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

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

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/