

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday October 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 **October 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.

Tom Burris, Chairman, and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chair and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Bryan Englehart, D&D Oilfield Service
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Roy Lloyd, SWC Commissioner

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the September 1, 2022 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the agenda. 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 \$28,846.31. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Drop Structure Maintenance

Bryan Englehart, D&D, gave an update on the drop structure maintenance.

After attempts for the last three years of filling the holes with grout and capping, there is more leaking and an undercut is happening at the bottom of the structure.

- Reported on water that is water running underneath and waterfalls are coming out in the bottom on the north side. (nine spots on the bottom at different depths) This happens during low water. During high flows the water flows over the top, but slower water flows go underneath.
- Discussed an option to concrete at the head gate and capping all the way down to the main structure. Bryan believes this is the only way to keep the water from trickling down.
- Englehart will get the district a proposal. The concrete estimated to seal the structure is about 600-650 yds of concrete.
- Bryan will coordinate with Larry Hicks, Larry Folks, Tom Burriss and Mike Brown to review this option and other engineering options.
- Staff will check with engineer to see if the District needs another U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Permit.
- Burriss will follow up with Dennis Doncaster at BLM on head cuts and upstream movement.

Justin Caudill

- Gave an update on HB 56, regarding special districts training requirements. The new intent of the bill is, anyone that has access to the money should have training and a certificate. Justin and Kelli Little, WACD, will be working together with the Department of Audit to make sure that we meet the intent of the law and define who needs the training. The timeline is to have a plan by February 2023 and have a certificate by February 2024. The Dept of Audit is working with the Wyoming Association of Special Districts.
- Reported on a second round of water quality Request for Proposals that will be available this winter. (172k)
- Justin reported there is an urban grant for food production through NACD. Let Justin know if you would like him to pursue.

Roy Lloyd

- Recommended to the new incoming commission to keep the partnership with the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) and will make that recommendation formal before he leaves.
- The commission was informed and have had three carbon capture presentations in the last two months.
- Lloyd believes there will be commission liaisons again next year and thinks that this is a positive.
- Suggested to provide education on the LSRC boundary change to the new incoming commission.

Unfinished Business

Bitter Creek Drop Structure Maintenance

Bryan will continue to speak with Larry Hicks, Mike Brown, Larry Folks and Tom Burris to come up with a best plan to move forward to address the problematic issues on the structure.

Staff will contact SWCCD engineer about the Army Corp permit and find out if it is needed.

FY 2022 Annual Report & Plan

Staff sent out draft report for review and comment.

Department of Revenue/Tax Division Boundary Map

The Department of Revenue missed an area to the northwest of the Town of Wamsutter that should have been excluded from the Little Snake River Conservation District. DOR provided an updated boundary map for review.

After discussion, staff was directed to send the map and confer with LSRCD for further discussion.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson seconded by Larry Folks to table the Department of Revenue Tax Division Boundary Map until after conferring with LSRCD to review the map. Motion carried.

New Business

WACD Annual Convention - December 5 – 8 – Casper

Staff will send out the information and agenda for the Convention when it becomes available. Contact staff if you would like to attend Convention.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Attending the CLG Meeting in Lyman on October 20.
- Spoke with Kelli Little, WACD, regarding Build Back Better money to help districts with irrigation projects in Sweetwater County and food production projects, such as hoop houses.
- Attended and reported on the Carbon Capture Inc. Project Bison meeting. Sweetwater County is said to have the right geology for the project and the local skill base per the Bison presenters. There are concerns with the project and infrastructure to support the workforce.
- Burris will try to attend the Critical Aging Infrastructure Study Meeting on October 12 at the Pinedale Library.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG). The next CLG Meeting will be November 17, in Lyman.
- Working on comments with CLG on the Vermillion Basin and working on and engaged on the Hiawatha EIS and the Ashley National Forest.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported on and attended the Colorado River Compact Meeting. The presenters at the meeting in July were Chris Brown, Wyoming Attorney General's office and Kevin Payne, Superintendent, Water Division IV. 2024 has a new plan. Stephanie has concerns over their survey markers and drought response and will try to get a copy of the handout from the meeting.
- Anderson would like to represent the Conservation District at the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) Meetings.
- Anderson will look into the Conservation District sign on Highway 414 by McKinnon.
- Anderson will try to attend the Critical Aging Infrastructure Meeting in Lyman on October 11.

Henry Bliss

- Continue to work on the TV and electrical connections.
- Bliss has concerns over the Carbon Capture Project and injecting the CO₂ into the ground.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

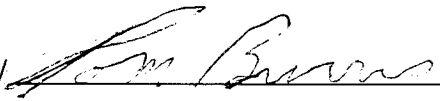
- Working on and sent out a draft Annual Report and Plan. Send comments back to staff. The report is due December 30.
- Reported on a zoom meeting held with districts and a new nursery in Loveland, Colorado. They are still in the process of working out the logistics, species, shipping, and packaging. There is a high demand for seedling and trees. (No bare root right now. 10ci trees) The nursery anticipates rolling out the first crop of seedling trees in spring of 2023.
- Reported on the water development small water project that consists of a diversion structure repair by replacing an existing culvert with two concrete check board structures and the replacement of the existing diversion pipe. The project is around \$6,500.00 with a 50% match from Water Development small water program. A 40-day advertisement period will be starting on October 22 – and run through December 1, 2022.
- Received the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) gator tickets. The tickets are now available for sale at the District Office. \$25.00 apiece.

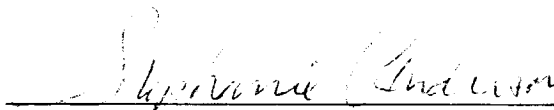
- Spent most of the grant funds for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Bitter Creek watershed-based planning and data collection grant. Working on the final grant report that is due on 12-30-22, when the grant expires. (18,000. spent with 4,042k match funds spent).

Public Comments

No public comments.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.
The next regular Board meeting will be held on November 3, 2022, 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/