

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday December 1, 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 **December 1, 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)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chair and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Randy Shipman, SWCCD Associate Supervisor

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded, by Larry Folks to approve the November 3, 2022 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to add the Sage Grouse Amendment MOU under Unfinished Business and approve the agenda. 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 \$14,228.04. Motion carried.

Reconciliation

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Reconciliation Report for July, August, September. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Jeff Lewis, NRCS (written report)

Farm Bill Activities

- 2023 EQIP Signup ended on November 23rd
- 8 applications for Sweetwater County
- 4 applications for Uinta County
- The next step is to make sure everyone is eligible and to screen them low, medium, or high and then work on ranking and more precise planning.
- There were three 2023 Uinta County producers that were thinking of signing up for irrigation practices but backed out due to high costs.
- Since the fallout of shutting down the Country because of COVID restrictions, I've had 3 producers cancel their contracts because of either not being able to get the supplies needed or because prices have gone through the roof.
- WACD Convention the week of the 5th in Casper. Both Courtney and Kevin are working on 2023 applications.

Randy Shipman, SWCCD Associate Supervisor

- Gave an update on the Energy Inflation Reduction Act and the President's Executive Order on Clean Energy Industries and Jobs through Federal Sustainability.
 - E.O. 14082, Sec. 1 (f) – harness nature-based solutions – including climate-smart agriculture and forestry – that deliver economic benefits for rural communities, Tribes, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners;
 - E.O. 14082, Sec. 2 (a) – investing public dollars effectively and efficiently, working to avoid waste, and achieving measurable, demonstrable outcomes for the American people; reducing energy costs for working families, businesses, and governments at all levels while increasing energy security for the benefit of United States economic competitiveness and national security;

Unfinished Business

Bitter Creek Drop Structure Maintenance

Larry Folks spoke with Bryan Englehart and he is working on a new quote and looking at updated bentonite numbers.

WACD Annual Convention - December 5 – 8 Casper

Information and agenda for the Convention included in Supervisors Packets.

Conservation District Boundary Signs

The Board reviewed pictures from HWY 191 and HWY 28. Stephanie will work with staff on the ROW for the HWY 414 sign.

USDOI Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management by and through the Wyoming BLM State Direction Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Understanding (MOU) Plan Amendments for the Management of Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to sign and submit the MOU. Motion carried.

New Business

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

- Scoping comments on BLM WY 2023 Second QTR Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale
- U.S. EPA Preliminary Safe Drinking Water Act Determinations for the Periodic springs
- Ashley National Forest Proposed Forest-wide Prescribed Fire Restoration Project Environmental Assessment

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

WDA Final Grant Report – Watershed Based Planning Grant

All grant funds have been expended and staff will submit the final report and supporting documentation.

Isaacson Subdivision

The District received the preliminary plat for the Isaacson Subdivision. The subdivision is located off of Yellowstone Road in Rock Springs and water is provided by 10-mile water & sewer district. Landowners will have individual septic tanks.

Tom will follow up with Gene Legerski, SWC Engineer, on influx of residents.

Staff will get a link on the SWCCD website from the SWC Health Department on septic applications.

Staff sent in comments and soils information.

SWCCD Supervisor Oath of Office

Urban Board Supervisor, Jean Dickinson, Rural Board Supervisor, Larry Folks and At-Large Board Supervisor, Henry Bliss was sworn in and took the Oath of Office. (4-year term)

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

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

Stephanie Anderson

- Anderson will do some more checking on the HWY 414 conservation district boundary signs as it relates to the ROW and placement on the south side of the highway.

Larry Folks

- Spoke with Bryan Englehart, D&D, on the Drop Structure Project. Bryan will send in an updated quote for the project.
- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting in Lyman.
- Reported that Aggie Grazing/Renewal Energy are putting up three Met towers in Leucite Hills. Leucite Hills is constructing these towers (temporary) on private property for gathering information on wind patterns over the next three to six years to determine if these locations are suited for wind development. The SWC Land Use Department is requesting comments.
- Folks will send the comment form to staff to send to legal to review and prepare comments. The public comment period is until December 9.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to contact legal to draft a set of comments for the Leucite Hills Renewable Energy Application for Temporary MET Towers 4, 5, and 6. Staff will submit to the county. Motion carried.

Henry Bliss

- Worked with staff on the Isaacson Subdivision soils information and comments.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Worked on updating 2023 tree forms and tree applications have been sent out to landowners. The tree information is updated and available on the District's website. (only bare root is available this year)
- Completed the final report for the WDA water quality grant. All grant funds have been expended. The report is due December 30.
- Worked on the soil descriptions for the preliminary plat for the Isaacson Subdivision. Staff will submit to the Sweetwater County Land Use Dept.
- Worked on the final paperwork for the Big Sandy Watershed Small Water Project for the Francis Ditch Project.
- Working on all end of year reports for the District.
- Staff will be out of office December 27-30

Public comments.

No public comments.

Information & Education

Information was included in Supervisor packets.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held on January 5, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater County Conservation District Office 550 Uinta Drive, Suite -E, Green River, WY.

/s/ Tom Burz Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/