

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday January 5, 2023- 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 5, 2023**, 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, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)  
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)  
Rick Breiniger, (Associate Supervisor)  
Randy Shipman (Associate Supervisor)

Absent: Larry Folks, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the December 1, 2022 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$14,374.44. Motion carried.

**Special Reports**

Guest Randy Shipman gave an update on Wilderness Acts and the history within the U.S. Forest Service. Randy said all government acts of Congress that are putting Non-Government Organizations (NGO) equal with this Board. "All of Government" NGO's and Conservation Districts have equal footing.

- Shipman wrote a history of the roadless rules and has subsequently received a FOIA request.
- Spoke about HB 0060 Colorado River Authority that is coming up before the Wyoming Legislature this session.

Rick Breininger

- Brought a book to share with the Board titled “Dark Winter” by John L. Casey. How the sun is causing a 30-year cold spell and ominous changes taking place in the climate and the Sun.

**Unfinished Business**

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

From Larry Folks “D&D is still working on getting the Bentonite, he has also been extremely busy with snow removal now. The snow is too deep to even drive to the drop structure now anyway.”

Bitter Creek August 2022 Monitoring EDE Monitoring and Watershed Sites Visits and Sampling

Staff handed out the memorandum and provided the Board with an over-view of fall 2022 Bitter Creek field observations and sampling conducted by EDE.

Conservation District Signs

Anderson left a message for John Eddins, DOT, and will continue to have conversations regarding the signs on Highway 414. Anderson believes we will need an encroachment permit from DOT.

Comments on Leucite Hills Renewable Energy Application for Temporary MET Towers  
A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the comments that were submitted. Motion carried.

The District received new information on the 3 MET Tower locations. The public hearings are scheduled for February. The P&Z Commission meets at 10 am on February 8, 2023 and the Board of County Commissioners meets at 9 am on February 21, 2023.

Staff was directed to send the new information and comment forms to legal. The District has submitted the comments and does not anticipate the need to provide more comments.

## New Business

### Reorganizational Meeting

#### Sweetwater County Conservation District Election of Officers

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to re-elect the current slate of officers by unanimous consent with Tom Burris as Chairman, Larry Folks as Vice-Chairman, Jean Dickinson as Treasurer, Stephanie Anderson as Secretary and as Member. The Chairman made three calls for nominations. There being no other nominations, the current slate of officers was elected 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 Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson to approve the banking, newspaper, bonding and mileage. 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. (65.5 cents per mile)

The following two **motions** were made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Associate Supervisor and keeping the Conservation District priorities. Motion carried.

#### Associate Supervisors

Staff will send a letter to current associates, asking if they would like to remain an Associate Supervisor for 2023.

#### 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

### Granger Station Subdivision

The District received the sketch plat application for the proposed Granger Station Subdivision. Staff sent in comments and soils information.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss to ratify the soil information and comments that were submitted. Motion carried.

### SWCCD/NRCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The District received the MOU. The MOU is established to document the collaborative relationship between the parties.

After discussion, staff will send the MOU to legal for review and place on the February agenda.

### WACD Legislative Update (email) 12-19-22

- Information was included in Supervisor's packets included the first legislative update for the 2023 legislative session.
- Staff handed out WACD legislative Update #2 (1-4-2023)

### Supervisors Reports

#### Tom Burris

- Burris spoke with Gene Legerski, SWC Engineer, and will try to get a meeting together with Eric Bingham, Land Use Planner, regarding septic system tanks.
- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman.

#### Jean Dickinson

- Reported on and attended an open house for the Flaming Gorge Management Plan.
- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman. The next CLG Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 25, 2023 in Lyman.

#### Stephanie Anderson

- Attended and reported on the WACD/Stock Growers Joint State Convention and received some good information on a soil health breakout session, no-till drills and legislative sessions.
- Anderson reported that Area IV will host the next convention in 2023.

Henry Bliss

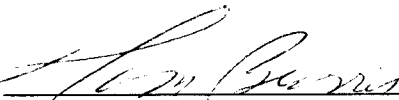
- Worked on the Granger Station Subdivision Review and associated soil reports.

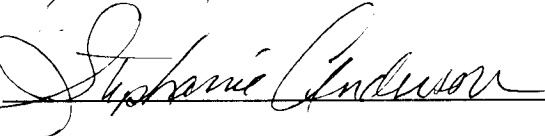
Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Completed all end of year reporting for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) and Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA).
- Reported on the WACD/Stock Growers Joint State Convention. December 5-8. One of the larger issues happening right now involves the new Special Districts Public Officer Training Requirements. House Bill 60 was passed in the 2022 Legislative session, the bill had at least two goals. The first was to provide for the enforcement of financial reporting requirements for counties, cities and town. The second was to define the minimum fiscal procedures training for public officers, this task has been assigned to the Wyoming Department of Audit. The Department of Audit is currently working to schedule a meeting in January of 2023 for all special districts (supervisors, and directors of special districts are public officers) to discuss their next steps in getting districts in compliance with the new training requirements by July 1, 2024. Fiscal responsibilities: If you would like to look over this bill it can be found at; <https://www.wyolog.gov/Legislation/2022/HB006>
- Staff will send updates to the Board on the supervisor training coming up on February 21-23 at the Laramie County Conservation District in Cheyenne. Staff will check on Zoom capabilities for the training.
- Gave an update on the WDA Bitter Creek Watershed Sampling & BMP Evaluation Grant. The grant is for 20k with a 6k match and runs until December 30, 2024. The next interim report is due on July 1, 2023.

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2023, 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/