

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 2, 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 **February 2, 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)
Larry Folks, Vice Chair and Rural Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator, (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Rick Breiniger, Associate Supervisor, SWCCD
Scott Brewer, Public
Micah Brewer, Public

Absent: Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the January 5, 2023 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Jean Dickinson, 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 \$14,232.76 . Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the reconciliation report for October, November and December 2022. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Scott Brewer, Public

Commented that he has a deep appreciation for the Conservation District, ranchers and agriculture.

Justin Caudill, WDA

- Reported on the second Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2023-24 fiscal biennium for the water quality grant program for Conservation Districts.
- Reported on the RHAP grant that is now available for monitoring, grazing and maintaining lands.
- The National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) will be having their yearly gather in New Orleans, due to sitting on the NASCA Committee, Caudill will be attending.
- Working on the supervisor training that will be held February 21-23 in Cheyenne at the Conservation District. Supervisor training and certification for employees and certification for supervisors are due to HB 60. The Department of Audit is required training. The trainings will be recorded and tapes would be made available to Districts.

Jeff Lewis, NRCS, (written report)

Farm Bill Activities

- Continuing the "grind" on 2023 EQIP applications. Currently, there are 6 applications for Sweetwater County totaling \$520,000 in cost share and there are 4 applications in Uinta County totaling \$277,300.
- The total allocation for Division III is \$1,026,382.00
- There probably will be more money available after the first round of obligations of Feb. 10th.

Staff Coordination

- Courtney is also continuing the "grind" on 2023 EQIP applications.

Handouts

- State bulletin for 2023 EQIP allocations

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Action

The Board gave a history update on the Bitter Creek Drop Structure.

2023 Conservation District Training and Certification, February 21-23, 2023 in Cheyenne

Staff will make the training available by zoom at the office. Let staff know if you would like to attend in person training in Cheyenne.

WACD Legislative Update (email) WACD Legislative Updates

- Staff handed out WACD legislative Update # 6 (1-26-2023)

SWCCD/NRCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

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

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

Cooperating Agency Status – Grazing Regulations

Staff requested to be a cooperator and is waiting on the MOU.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to apply for cooperating agency status, sign and submit the MOU, when it becomes available. Motion carried.

New Business

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

- U.S. Forest Service’s Rangeland Management Futuring 12-30-22
- Scoping Comments on the Flaming Gorge NRA Draft Mgmt. Plan Revision 1-6-23
- Scoping on BLM 2023 3rd Qtr. Comp Oil and Gas Lease Sale 1-19-23

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to ratify the comments. 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 3, 2023.

Simply Sunshine Nursery Grant Recipient

The nursery submitted a report on the purchase of their soil mixing machine along with nursery updates.

Schedule Commission Meeting

After discussion, staff will request to be on the March 7, commission agenda.

WDA Water Quality Grant Program 2nd Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Request for Proposals (RFP) are now available and application are due by March 5.

Staff was directed to apply for funding for the drop structure project.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to apply, with the focus on the drop structure. Motion carried.

Open Records Request / Open the Books – American Transparency

Received request on (1-18-23) and responded to their records request. Staff will work on getting the information out to American Transparency. *“Pursuant to the Open Records Act, this is a request for a copy of the following records: An electronic copy of 'any' and 'all' vendor (transfer of property or services) payee payments for the year 2022.”*

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. The next meeting will be held on February 16, in Lyman.

Stephanie Anderson

- Anderson reported that she will be working with Trout Unlimited along with WWNRT on the Henry’s Fork for an irrigation structure.

Larry Folks

- Reported on the WACD Annual Convention and expressed appreciation for the chance to attend the event and looks forward to attending more conventions in the future.
- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman.

Information and Education

- Special District Training will be held in Cheyenne, February 21-23.
- MET Towers Planning and Zoning hearing will be held on February 8 at the Sweetwater County Office.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Received a FOIA request from Open the Books American Transparency for FY 2022 for vendor payee/payments and employee earnings. Staff will send in the request.
- Working on updating access agreements for landowners/companies for permission to request water quality, soils, stream channel conditions and monitoring for 2023. Staff will send the access language to legal for review and comment.

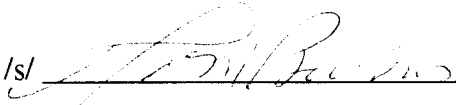
- Worked on updating the asset list of equipment and disposing of older archived records (vendors A/P, banking registers, correspondence)
- Attended a Wyoming Association of Special District statewide meeting. (via zoom) The Secretary of State keep a list of all special districts. The meeting had speakers from the National Special District Coalition. The Coalition is now in ten states and are working on uniting special districts and stakeholders, approving a policy platform and defining special districts in U.S. law. Other updates included reports from the Department of Audit which requires the census and annual reports, record keeping and reserve definitions. HB 60 – Supervisor training was discussed and the DOA will be doing trainings across the state.

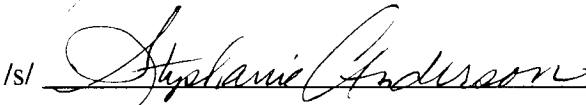
There is also a training course on the special district's website that can be found at: [Wyoming Association of Special Districts Training – Wyoming Association of Special Districts \(wyospecialdistricts.com\)](http://Wyoming Association of Special Districts Training – Wyoming Association of Special Districts (wyospecialdistricts.com))

Attended a Wyoming Public System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) Webinar. (zoom)

- ❖ In response to the detrimental effects of the millennium drought in the Colorado River Basin, the Colorado River Upper Basin States and the UCRC adopted a 5-Point Plan. The first element of the 5-Point Plan is the re-authorization of a SCPP similar to the program from 2015-2018.
- ❖ The SCPP requests projects that reduce consumptive use in the Upper Colorado River Basin through temporary, voluntary, and compensated water conservation actions in 2023.
- ❖ WSEO posts updates online at <https://seo.wyo.gov/interstate-streams/colorado-river-working-group>.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 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/