

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday March 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 **March 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)  
Henry Bliss, Member and At-Large Supervisor, (SWCCD)  
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator, (SWCCD)  
Mary Thoman, Sweetwater County Commissioner (SWC)  
Rick Breiniger, Associate Supervisor, (SWCCD)  
Randy Shipman, public  
Anne Shipman, public

Absent: Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor, (SWCCD)

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the February 2, 2023 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$28,279.99. Motion carried.

**Sweetwater County Budget FY 2024**

The Board received the county budget schedule. The budget form will be sent out on March 20th. The budget is due to the county on Friday, April 21, by noon. The Commissioners will be meeting with everyone requesting funding this year.

On Tuesday, May 16 from 1:30 to 5:00 the Commissioners will be meeting with the Component Units and the Outside Agencies requesting over \$200,000 in funding from the County.

On Tuesday, June 6 from 1:30 to 5:00 the Commissioners will be meeting with the Outside Agencies requesting \$200,000 or less in funding from the County. The public hearing and adoption of the budget will be on Thursday, June 22 at 9:00 AM.

#### Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Work Session

The Board set the fiscal year 24 budget work session for Thursday, April 6, at 2:00 p.m.

#### Special Reports

##### Mary Thoman

- Reported on Rocky Mountain Power's announcement of a rate increase.
- Thoman reported on her recent trip to Washington D.C. and handed out remarks by President Biden at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference. To learn more, go to the [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) website and read some of those reports. (*Declaration of North America-1/10/23*)
- Thoman will be back on the WLCI Executive Committee along with Kent Connelly.

##### Randy Shipman

- Reported on E.O. 14091 of 2-16-23 and presidential document "Further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government."
- Reported on E.O. 14008, the arbiter is now the Academy of Science and they will deal with any disputes.
- Handed out the public listening sessions on scientific integrity/December 2021.
- Shipman read into the record titled "Dear Decision Influencers and Decision Maker" 30x30 is a necessary goal. "Science can guide selection of lands for nature to thrive, particularly wilderness area on National Forest and BLM Lands. This was from the first E.O. by Anne Millbrooke".
- Handed out California water – excerpts on biological opinion – transcript from a zoom call. Deidre, Director of California water research.

##### Jeff Lewis, NRCS, (written report)

##### Farm Bill Activities

- Currently processing 2023 EQIP applications, which were pre-approved last Friday.

##### Meetings Coming Up

- We need to schedule a local work group meeting for 2024.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Action**

#### **WDA Grant**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to submit the grant based on amendments and revised in-kind cost estimates for re-seeding and reclamation. Motion carried.

#### **Schedule BKWAG Meeting**

After discussion, the Board decided holding the Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) meeting on Thursday, May 25, from 9:30 – 12:00 pm at the White Mountain Library.

#### **WACD Legislative Update (email) WACD Legislative Updates**

- Staff handed out the WACD legislative Update # 9 (2-23-2023)

#### **March Sweetwater County Commission Meeting**

The Board will attend a Sweetwater County Commission Meeting on Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can attend the meeting, arrive at the SWCCD Office at 9am for discussion.

## **New Business**

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

- RMP Application to convert Bridger Unit 1-2 to Natural Gas 1-30-23
- WY PSC's Notice of Public Hearing/Call for comments 1-30-23
- Supplemental Proposed Rule for new, recon, and Mod. Resources/Emissions Guidelines for existing Sources: Oil and Gas Sector Climate Review 2-13-23

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

#### **LGLP Membership Renewal Application**

Received the Annual renewal applications for memberships. The applications are due by May 19.

A **motion** was made Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to complete the renewal application and submit to LGLP. Motion carried.

#### **Bryant Subdivision – Replat**

The District received the replat application for the Bryant Subdivision. The purpose of the replat is to consolidate three existing lots (4, 5, and 6 – Block 9 of the Jamestown Subdivision), into two lots (5-A and 6-A of the new subdivision). One required item in the county's replat process is to obtain a soils report from the local conservation district. Staff sent in comments and soils information.

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

### Open Records Request / Smart Procure

Received request on (1-14-23) and responded to their records request. Staff will work on getting the information out to Smart ProCure. "SmartProcure is submitting a public records request to the Sweetwater County Conservation District for any and all **purchasing records from 7/2/2019 to current**".

### 2023 Watershed Progress Report Request

Staff will be working on gathering information for the report. The report is due March 17.

### Local Work Group Meeting

The Board set the Local Work Group Meeting for Thursday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m.

### Supervisors Reports

#### Tom Burris

- Reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) February meeting held in Lyman.

#### Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) February meeting held in Lyman and reviewed the comments that were submitted. The next meeting will be held on March 16, in Lyman. SWCCD staff will be available to take minutes.
- Reported there will be a pause on water releases on the Flaming Gorge for the Colorado River, amid a snowy winter.

#### Larry Folks

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

#### Henry Bliss

- Worked on the Bryant Subdivision Replat and associated soil reports.

### Public Comments

No Public Comments.

### Staff Reports

#### Karen Pecheny


- Received a FOIA request from Smart Procure American Transparency for 2019 to current day for vendor payee/payments. Staff will send in the request.

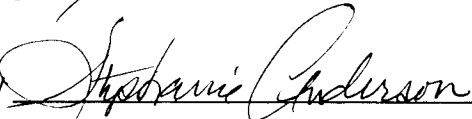
- Continuing to work on updating access agreements for landowners/companies for permission to request water quality, soils, stream channel conditions and monitoring for 2023.
- Staff advertised the Community Enhancement Grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due on April 3, 2023
- Worked on the WDA Water Quality Grant for the Drop Structure Project.
- Reported the District has sold trees 1,100 trees to date.
- Reported that WACD ordered belt buckles for the winners of last year's awards. Kelli plans to send the plaque/buckle to the nominating districts, so they can present to their winners.

Information and Education

- Received the 2023 Department of Revenue Compliance Letter. The District is compliant for tax year 2023.

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 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/