

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday April 6, 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 **April 6, 2023**.

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, Member and At-Large Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator, (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, (WDA)
Jeff Lewis, Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the March 2, 2023 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to add the Local Work Group priorities under New Business and approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$16,494.28. Motion carried.

Sweetwater County Budget FY 2024

The budget is due to the county on Friday, April 21, by noon.

After discussion, the Board will keep the same budget numbers as fiscal year 2023.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to authorize sending the FY 2024 budget to the county by the April 21, deadline with additional comments and budget numbers. Motion carried.

The Commissioners will meet on May 16, from 1:30 to 5:00 with Component Units and Outside Agencies requesting amounts over \$200,000 in funding from the County.

The SWCCD Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 13, at 10:00 a.m. by teleconference. Staff will send out a reminder.

Special Reports

Justin Caudill

- Reported the Board of Agriculture will meet on April 10 and 11. SWCCD staff will be available by teleconference for questions on the Drop Structure Grant request.
- Conservation District Supervisor training will be held on April 11 and 12, in-person and zoom. Kelly Little, WACD, will record the trainings.
- Caudill is waiting on the self-assessment to the Department of Audit and need certifications done by June 2024.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Action

Drop Structure Update

- Larry will work on quotes/scoping with engineer and other consultants.

BKWAG Meeting

The meeting will be held on May 25 from 9:30 -11:30 at the White Mountain Library. Staff will advertise the meeting.

WACD Training April 11-12

The 2023 Conservation District Training and Certification will be available via zoom. Staff will have the trainings available at the office.

Community Enhancement Grants

The District did not receive any applications.

New Business

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

- BLM's Notice of Intent to prepare a PEIS to evaluate utility-scale energy planning and amend the RMP's for renewable energy development 3-1-23

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

SWCCD Cooperating Agency Request: BLM EIS Solar Energy Planning 3-9-23

Submitted a Cooperating Agency Request for the BLM's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Planning.

Have not heard back yet for the MOU.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Conservation District Risk Management and Bonding Forms

The Board discussed and signed the Bonding and the Risk Management Forms. The forms are required by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, as part of their financial policy requirements and oversight.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to sign and submit the forms. Motion carried.

Forest Service Collaborative

The Board discussed gathering information for a collaborative, how many different categories? How many people in the categories? Finding out the next steps and speaking with the County Commissioners and setting up/finding people and nominating them. Star Valley and Sublette Conservation Districts have a collaborative. Limit to the North Slope.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to direct staff to contact Mike Henn, Kay Lynn Nield, Corey Roberts, on their charter, what categories and guidance on collaboratives. Motion carried.

Local Work Group Meeting

The Board held a Local Work Group meeting earlier today and will keep the priorities the same as last year.

1. Grazing Lands Management/Forest and Woodland Health/Watershed Health
2. Invasive Species/Soil Health
3. Irrigation Water Management/Streambank/Riparian Health/Water Quality

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to keep the same priorities as last year. Motion carried.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) March meeting held in Lyman.
- Attended the SWC Commission Meeting and gave an update on the Annual Report.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) March Meeting held in Lyman and reviewed the comments that were submitted.

Stephanie Anderson

- Anderson was named to the WLCI Executive Committee. (alternate)
- Attended the SWC Commission Meeting in March.
- Attended the Local Project Development Team Meeting (LPDT) on March 24.

- Attended a BLM conference call for BLM funding. No match money for BLM funding, and 10 million CAPS on projects.

Reported on the development of South Buckboard and the ANF Small Project Scoping special use permit. The Flaming Gorge Ranger District is considering a boundary adjustment of the Buckboard Marina's special use permit. The adjustment would remove water acreage and add areas of land to the east and south, including part of the South Buckboard areas that is currently used for dispersed camping. The adjustment would increase the permittee's authorized acreage by 3 acres (increasing it from 77 acres to 80 acres). The Buckboard Marina is approximately 22 miles south of Green River.

- The Forest Supervisor falls under a Categorical Exclusion with NEPA and anything that happens at Buckboard is included in the exclusion.
- Considering changing boundaries, expand due to low water lines, put in new docks, and put in a parking lot and roads.
- Falls under Bureau of Recreation and is under the Cherokee Trail involvement and is not being recognized with public involvement.
- Anderson recommended to ask legal to write a letter.

The District is not in an agreement of the categorical exclusion and the uses. There are concerns how it affects the uses and the Flaming Gorge Recreation Plan.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, for the Board to work with legal on a letter for more of an analysis. Motion carried.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) March Meeting held in Lyman.
- Attended the SWC Commission Meeting and gave an update on the Bitter Creek Drop Structure Project.

Henry Bliss

- Worked on the county budget.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Attended the SWC Commission Meeting and gave an update on education and outreach activities of the Annual Report.
- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) March meeting and will attend the April meeting and take minutes.

- Staff advertised the Community Enhancement Grant, Local Work Group Meeting and will advertise the May BKWAG Meeting.
- Worked on the county budget form for fiscal year 2024.
- Reported that the trees will be shipped on May 1st.
- Will attend Career Day at Truman Elementary on April 14, in Green River.
- Staff will contact LSRCD about a May work session for both Boards.

Information and Education

Information was included in Supervisor's packets.

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ Tom Perri Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny//