

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday June 8, 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 **June 8, 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-Chairman 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)  
Rick Breininger, SWCCD Associate Supervisor

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the May 6, 2023, 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 Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$75,575.20. Motion carried.

**Reconciliation Report**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the reconciliation report for January, February and March 2023. Motion carried

**Sweetwater County Budget Hearing FY 2024**

Last day for budget hearings is July 20.

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

Reserve Account End of Year for fiscal year 2023  
SWCCD Reserve Amount

Staff went over the reserve funds for the district for end of year 2023. The District has an estimated \$57,073.78 held in reserves. (\$15,747.00 are WDA grant funds, Assigned) = \$41,326.78. The funds are held in emergency reserves (not committed) and are held for unexpected expenses that may arise during the fiscal year and will note the expenditure in the minutes by Board motion.

State Budget FY 2024

Staff submitted the proposed budget by June 1. The final budget is due by July 31 to Department of Audit and County Clerk.

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

**Unfinished Business**

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Action  
Drop Structure Update

Folks spoke with D&D last week and said the contractors will be out at the project site next week to do a pre-liminary visit. A new project scope with proposals will need to be submitted.

**New Business**

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

- Scoping Comments for the Proposed Anadarko Vegetation Management Project 5-23-23
- Moxa Carbon Storage's ROW application for the SW WY CO2 Sequestration Project 5-26-23

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

**Supervisors Reports**

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the BKWAG meeting and met with the Rock Springs Mayor regarding Bitter and Killpecker Creek and the upcoming meeting.
- Reported on the budget work session with the County Commissioners.
- Attended the LSRCD Board Meeting and invited them to the SWCCD budget work session.
- Staff will inform the SWCCD Chairman about the next County Commission meeting with Richard Stem.

### Jean Dickinson

- Reported on working on CLG comments and with Randy Shipman, Associate Supervisor, on comments on some of the President's executive orders.
- The next Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting will be held on June 29 in Lyman.

### Stephanie Anderson

- Attended the Annual Operation Plan (AOP) meeting for Vermillion Creek and Alkali Creek.
- Reported the next WLCI meeting will meet in Cheyenne and Anderson will attend virtually. Anderson is the Conservation District representative.
- Reported the SW County Engineer is looking into redoing Highway Road #1 by McKinnon.
- Attended and reported on the budget work session with the County Commissioners.

### Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the BKWAG meeting.
- Attended and reported on the budget work session with the County Commissioners.

### Henry Bliss

- Worked on installing a new printer in Clerk's Office. The older printer quit working.
- Attended the BKWAG Meeting and helped with IT connections.
- Worked on IT, Zoom and TV connections.

### Public Comments

No Public Comments.

### Staff Reports

#### Karen Pecheny

- The trees were delivered and staff worked on separating orders for customers and delivering trees. The District sold 1,350.00 trees.
- Attended the BKWAG meeting and took minutes. There were no updates on chloride TMDL/site-specific criteria at this time
- Regarding questions on the Rock Springs West Center Street Bitter Creek Channel Restoration project, the Waterborne Pathogen Public Notification Process was recently updated.
  - It provides guidance to agencies and cooperators should unsafe levels of *E. coli* be confirmed in publicly accessible water recreation sites that are

used frequently for swimming, water play by children, and other water contact activities.

- Examples of recommended signage are also shown in the linked PDF document.
  
- Contact Kelsee Hurschman with WDEQ for more discussion/information on what coordination would look like. 307-777-2073 or [kelsee.hurschman1@wyo.gov](mailto:kelsee.hurschman1@wyo.gov)
  
- Attended the Ray Lovato “Trees for Recyclables Day” in Rock Springs, they had a good turnout at the event.
  
- Worked on the proposed state budget which was due June 1st.
  
- Updated the renewal in SAM (System for Award Management). The renewal keeps SWCCD active for federal grants and reporting.

#### Information and Education

EMAIL: Jason Mead, Director of the Water Development Office (WWDO), reached out regarding an anticipated Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding program through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for infrastructure-based conservation projects with long-term benefits to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Details of the program are still largely unknown, and we are still awaiting a pre-solicitation announcement from Reclamation for project types that could be considered for eligibility. To prepare for this solicitation, the WWDO has prepared a preliminary list of project types. The WWDO developed this list from the NRCS’s Wyoming Field Office Technical Guide which I’m sure you are all familiar with (<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WY/documents/section=4&folder=-3>).

*Update: We have landed on July 13th, at 3:00 p.m. for a virtual meeting and hope that at least a good majority of you might be available.*

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

*/s/ Tom Burris* \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

*/s/ Stephanie Anderson* \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/