

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday July 6, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.  
550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

**REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**Call to Order**

**Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman** called to order the meeting of the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) at 4:00 PM on **July 6, 2023**.

**Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman** conducted a roll call and introductions. The following persons were present.

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, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)  
Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist, (NRCS)  
Randy Shipman, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)

Absent: Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor, (SWCCD)

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the June 8, 2023, minutes as written. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to amend the agenda to include under New Business Union Pacific Land Sale (Aggi Grazing) in Sweetwater County. 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 \$9,940.17. Motion carried.

**Sweetwater County Budget Hearing FY 2024**

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

Special Reports  
Jeff Lewis, NRCS

- Starting to do the inventory for signups on potential applications for 2024.
- Farm Bill – The AMA applications are still pending. (Agriculture Management Assistance) Hoop houses
- Approximately 3.1 million was spent this year in Division 111 – this includes all programs in Sweetwater County funded about \$417,000.00.
- Lewis has been out on an emergency conservation program (ECP) projects. FSA administers the ECP Program.
- There will be a D.C. Meeting on August 9 and 10 in Riverton.
- Karen Clause and Courtney will be helping update a grazing plan and inventory next week for a 2024 application in Uinta County)

Randy Shipman

- Handed out a letter (dated May 31, 2023) addressed to the USDOJ D.C. office on the BLM's proposed rule, on Conservation and Landscape Health.
- Spoke on critical Public Land Management: Conserving 30% of the Nation's Lands and Waters beyond 2030. (by Sandra B. Zellmer & Robert L. Glickman).
- The Board reviewed Shipman's letter to the Sweetwater County Commission regarding Mil levy proposal, dated June 9, 2023. Randy has not heard back from any commissioners on his letter.

**Unfinished Business**

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Action  
Drop Structure Update

Folks reported water has picked back up on the structure and contractor has not been able to get out to do an evaluation.

The creek needs to be low and dry to run a camera through the structure. Larry Hicks has the camera and personnel to run the camera. The LSRCD engineer would interpret the results.

When the creek is dry, we need to do a camera inspection before any proposed fix starts construction. A new project scope with proposals will need to be submitted.

Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan Management Measure Status Update 6-15-23

The Board reviewed the memo from EDE on management measure updates.

The 2023/24 projected scope for fiscal year 2024, will need to be prioritized and track with WDA water quality grant work.

Russ Hamilton has left EDE to pursue other opportunities.

### WDA Interim Report – Bitter Creek Watershed Sampling and BMP Evaluations

The report was included in supervisors' packets. Staff submitted the Interim Report. The grant expires June 30, 2024. Staff will request the remaining \$7,000.00 that is left in the grant.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the Interim Report. Motion carried.

### WDA Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Implementation: October 1, 2022 – October 30, 2024

Staff will be working on the interim report that is due on October 1. A yearly plan of work will be submitted to request funding for the Watershed-Based Plan Grant.

### Little Snake River CD and Sweetwater County CD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

*Renewal change:* The agreement shall be effective for 3 years, instead of 1 year, at which time the agreement will terminate unless renewed by both Boards evidenced in their minutes. LSRCD signed the MOU and the SWCCD Board will sign and submit to LSRCD. (MOU renewal in July 2026)

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

### **New Business**

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

- EA for the Terra Power, LLC's Test and Fill Facility Project 6-14-23
- Objection to the Ashley National Forest Draft Land Management Plan and Draft ROD 6-20-23
- Proposed Rule Regarding Conservation and Landscape Health 7-5-23

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

### Mil levy Discussion

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to table the Mil levy discussion to a later meeting. Motion carried.

### Moore Service Agreement

After contacting Jim Moore for a folder restore request, it was determined that the backups have not been working for over a year. Moore said this sometimes happens as a technical glitch or during a power outage. A service agreement was submitted. After discussion: The Board agreed to sign an agreement for one year. Moore will be able to complete the backups via online and help with other technical issues.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to accept the service agreement with Jim Moore for one year. Motion carried.

#### Wyoming Water Development Office RCPP Discussion

Staff reported on a Conference Meeting that has been scheduled for July 13 at 3:00 PM

The meeting is to discuss RCPP, an RCPP application, and partnerships for infrastructure-based conservation projects with long-term benefits to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Upper Colorado River Basin, that could be considered for eligibility.

#### Join by phone

(US) +1 513-666-2937

PIN: 363742185

#### WACD Awards – September 1 Deadline

The Board discussed the award and deadlines.

#### Union Pacific (Aggie Grazing) Land Sale

Staff was directed to contact legal to write a letter, along with a resolution consistent with the District's Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy to the Governor's Office regarding the land for sale in Sweetwater County.

- Legal has been advised about the land sale and Eric Bingham, SWC, is working on the sections in SWC.
- Due to the size and scale of the sale, the Board would like further investigations due to the significant impacts. May need a resolution because of the significance of the land being sold and those impacts.
- SWCCD will contact LSRC.
- Send a letter to the Governor and whoever else needs the letter.
- Include more public information and involvement due to the impacts from the sale of lands in Sweetwater County.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to direct legal to draft a letter/resolution to the Governor about the land purchase based on the District's Land & Resource Use Plan & Policy and the aforementioned comments. Motion carried.

#### Supervisors Report

##### Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the CLG meeting and made comments on the proposed sage grouse core revision map, oil and gas leases, RMP coal plants, and the EPA WOTUS.

- The next Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) meeting will be held on July 20, in Lyman.
- Dickinson would like to see the NRCS MOU that was signed in February revisited and reviewed. Staff will add to the August agenda for discussion.

#### Stephanie Anderson

- Attended the WLCI meeting virtually and reported they had to turn back some funding. Anderson would like to see Justin Caudill, WDA, attend and report on this at a future meeting.
- Anderson reported that progress is being made on getting bids for County Rd 1 resurfacing, the McKinnon Road.

#### Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the CLG meeting in Lyman.
- Having conversations with contractor and LSRCD on the drop structure project.

#### Henry Bliss

- The state audit and proof of cash report is due on September 30. Bliss will be working with staff to submit the state audit report before the deadline.
- Continuing to work on IT connections.

#### Public Comments

No Public Comments.

#### **Staff Reports**

##### Karen Pecheny

- Working on entering the FY 2024 budget into QuickBooks and the final budget which is due on July 31 to the state and county.
- Reported on and submitted the Interim Report for the WDA Water Quality Grant for Bitter Creek.
- Reported that Richard Stem could meet with the board on July 18 or the day after let staff know if you would like to set up a time to meet with Stem.
- Worked with SWC Elections Clerk to receive the Sweetwater County Voter Registry List.

#### Information and Education

Updated schedule of the 2023 Area Meetings.

September 7 & 8 - Area III - Meeteetse

September 14 & 15 - Area II Laramie

September 18 & 19 - Area IV - Saratoga

September 21 & 22 - Area I - Kaycee

September 25 & 26 - Area V Jackson

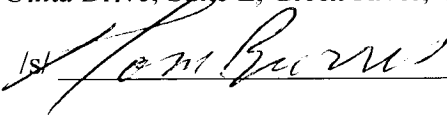
November 15-17 - WACD Convention – Dubois

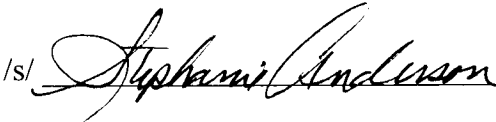
R. Shipman Letter

The Board reviewed and commented on the letter to the SWC Commission from R. Shipman.

The Board discussed and was in favor of holding an August conference call.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY. (conference call)

/s/  \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

/s/  \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/