

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday September 7, 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 **September 7, 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.

Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Secretary, and Urban Supervisor (SWCCD)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, At-Large Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Rick Breininger, Associate Supervisor

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the August 3, 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 Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$8,021.97. Motion carried.

Department of Audit: Internal Self Audit – For Special Districts

Worksheets include: Proof of Cash, Internal Control and an Annual Report Summary. Reports are all due September 30, 2023. Henry Bliss helped complete the audit. Staff sent the Proof of Cash worksheet to Jonny Lamb, accountant, to complete

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Annual Census Report/Internal Self Audit. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the reconciliation report for April, May and June 2023. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Rick Breininger reported on Impact 307, which is a free business bootcamp that features local professional volunteers who will discuss topics, and offer counseling that entrepreneurs will need to consider when starting or running their businesses. Grants are available with donations from local established businesses.

The Forest Service will be moving in an office next door to the Conservation District. They will have a range and fire person now in Green River.

The Board discussed the Forest Service Collaborative. No action was taken.

Unfinished Business

Drop Structure Project

- Folks will visit with Larry Hicks regarding a camera for the drop structure before proceeding with construction.
- Received an estimate from D&D to do the repairs. Folks will inquire into the bentonite and if it is included in the estimate.
- Dickinson explained after speaking with Larry Hicks, the grants have stalled and we will keep looking into other revenue sources.

EDE Consultants (EDE) and Water & Environmental Technologies (WET) Merger

EDE Consultants (EDE) are merging operations with Water & Environmental Technologies (WET) effective September 1, 2023. WET is an environmental and civil engineering firm that provides services similar to those provided by EDE. WET has extensive experience working in Wyoming, Montana, and the Rocky Mountain region. WET will offer expanded resources that will complement EDE services very well. Information about WET can be viewed at www.waterenvtech.com.

After Discussion:

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to send legal the landowner access agreement for water quality sampling, ask about binding or contractual contracts and inquire about our obligations, (implied contracts sent via email correspondence to EDE) and our ability to pursue other engineering firms. Motion carried.

The Board would like to request Russ Hamilton, WWC Engineering, to put together a proposal to do water quality sampling. (after this year) Hamilton explained that he would like to stay away from Bitter Creek for the rest of this year.

Special District Training and Compliance

The Board will get together and watch the training videos (of the in-person training) being provided by the WACD. An attendance sign-in must be kept listing the attendees, date/time, course content; course length, location of the viewing, and who the instructors were, then either the chairperson or treasure signs an affidavit under oath of penalty of perjury stating that the person did attend and view the materials. In this case you would still add the name of the training on the form, but you would need to keep a copy of the attendance and affidavit in each person's file as long as they are employed

SWCCD August Newsletter

Staff worked on and sent out the August newsletter, which included basic information on E. coli and chloride water quality within impaired reaches of Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creeks within the City of Rock Springs.

New Business

- a) Pre-Decisional: CLG Comments Re:
- Comments on the U.S. Forest Service's Advanced Notice of Prop. Rulemaking 7-20-23
 - Comments on SGIT's Proposed Sage-Grouse Core Area Map Revision 7-28-23
 - Comments on the Prop. Rule for New Performance Standards for Green House Gas Emissions: New, Modified, Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units 8-8-23
 - Comments on the BLM's Rule for ROW Leasing and Operations for Renewal Energy 8-15-23
 - Comments on the High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis Project Supplemental EIS 8-28-23
 - Comments on Notice of Intent to Prepare an Updated Bison and Elk Management Plan for the National Elk Refuge 8-31-23

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

Area V Meeting

Hosted by Teton Conservation District on September 25-26. Let staff know if you would like to attend. RSVP by September 18.

Chenoweth Preliminary Plat

The District received the preliminary plat application for the Chenoweth Subdivision. The subdivision includes five single family residential lots for a total of 44 acres.

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

Double F Sketch Plat

The District received a sketch plat application for the Double F Subdivision.

The proposal is a 2-lot minor subdivision (basically a boundary line adjustment of his property and the property to the south of him).

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

Annual Report and Plan of Work

Staff will be working on the Annual Report and Plan of Work. and will send out a draft for review and comment.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Spoke about the BLM cooperators meeting he attended on the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan.
- Burris signed the Department of Audit paperwork for fiscal year 2022. Staff will submit the audit before the September 30 deadline.

Jean Dickinson

- Dickinson was approached by a Daggett County resident regarding a no-till drill and the ability to participate with other entities on a shared project to purchase a drill. Dickinson invited him to a District meeting to explain the project.
- Attended the CLG Meeting and commented on the Sage Grouse SGIT's Proposed Sage-Grouse Core Area Map Revision.

Stephanie Anderson

- Attended and reported on the Brucellosis meeting in Green River.
- Attended and reported on the Southwest Wyoming Ranch Day with Uinta County held in Lyman. Anderson reported on noxious weeds and potentially doing some education here in Sweetwater County. Burris suggested to call Dan Madsen at the Sweetwater County Weed & Pest Office in Farson. Dickinson suggested traveling to those communities.

Larry Folks

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) Meeting in August.
- Attended and reported on the Brucellosis meeting in Green River.

Henry Bliss

- Worked with staff on the state audit Annual Census Report which is due by September 30.
- Worked on two subdivision review soil reports.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Reported on completing the audit with Supervisor Bliss and submit to the Department of Audit by the September 30 deadline.
- Worked on the August newsletter and sent out to the steering committee, agencies and partners.
- Working on archiving some files, file management and record retention.
- Working on the interim grant report for the Bitter Creek Implementation Plan. Due October 1, and expires October 2024.
- Attended the Quarterly Federal Partners update with the Commission. (remotely)
- Attended the Rock Springs RMP Cooperator Agency Meeting. (remotely)
- Received the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) gator tickets. The tickets are now available for sale at the District Office. \$25.00 apiece.

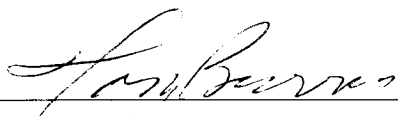
Public Comments

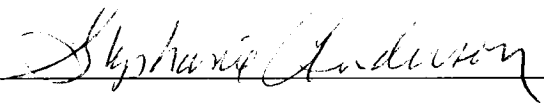
No public comments.

Information and Education

Information was included in supervisors' packets.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday October 5, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater County Conservation District Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/  Chairman

/s/  Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/