

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday October 5, 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 **October 5, 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, Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, Member and At-Large Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator, (SWCCD)
Mary Thoman, SWC Commissioner (SWC)
Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist (NRCS)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the September 7, 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 Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$15,160.93. Motion carried.

2023 F-32 Survey of Local Governments Form

Staff sent the Wyoming Department of Audit F-32 form to Wyoming Dept of Audit. The audit was due September 30.

Special Reports

Mary Thoman

- Reported on the Rock Springs RMP, the commission will be working with SWC Deputy County attorney and CLG attorney on comments for the RMP.
- Thoman reported the Governor will be attending the County Commission Association Meeting on October 12, to help coordinate the protest.
- The SW County attorney is asking industry people for substantive comments. Sublette County and the Chamber of Commerce are also writing comments.
- Handed out information on the Greater Green River Basin and Wind River Basin Meeting in Craig, CO on November 2.
- Handed out a map of the digitized roads and trails mapping program that was completed by SWCCD and utilized Rocky Mountain Survey.
- Thoman will be sending out a notice regarding monthly agency meetings.
- Thoman reported that she is on the BLM Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) she will be meeting in Rawlins on October 18-19. The RMP is on the agenda.

Jeff Lewis

- Reported on taking applications on irrigation projects in Uinta County for the salinity area.
- Reported on sprinkler projects going in by McKinnon, hope to get the pipe in by this winter.
- Lewis said NRCS is doing system updates on their computers.
- Handed out information on Satellite Liquid Monitoring System. This system would monitor your tank levels by satellite connection by using an app on your phone.

Unfinished Business

Bitter Creek Updates and Actions

Drop Structure

- Folks is working on getting ahold of Larry Hicks and working on getting a camera down the structure.
- Burris said that he received a call back from Larry Hicks and said they were working on getting a camera to the project site.
- Thoman suggested to invite Robb Slaughter, SWC Commissioner, and other commissioners to the project site when the camera takes place to take a look at the drop structure.

After Discussion:

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Jean Dickinson, in keeping with the joint MOU the Board would like to inform Keaton West and Robb Slaughter, SWC Commissioners, the day for the camera inspection and to move forward with a cost of repair. Motion carried.

Fall Water Quality Sampling

Staff received notice that the fall Bitter Creek sampling was completed on Tuesday, October 3. WET personnel (Mitch Nelson and a WET field tech) were able to visit legacy sites and photo documentation. A more detailed memo will be forthcoming.

“Bruce wanted to coordinate sampling with the meeting to give the president of WET an opportunity to meet with you and the Board, however things have been rather hectic here on our end. Perhaps we can arrange a meeting at a later date or in the spring during the BKWAG.”

After discussion, the Board would like to meet with WET sooner than the BKWAG Meeting in the spring of 2024. Burriss will contact Mitch Nelson, regarding WET reps meeting with SWCCD. Staff will send an email requesting a future meeting.

Work Sessions for Trainings

December 7, January 4, February 1, March 7 (1.5-hour work session for 4 months)

Employment Law	60 min
Records Archive Requirements	51 min
Uniform Municipal Procedures Act	73 min
Elections/Special District	29 min
District Boundary Reporting	17 min
Administrative Procedures Act	23 min
Open Meetings Act	54 min
Public Officials Ethics Act	12 min
Public Records Act	34 min

Total - 5 Hours and 53 Minutes

New Business

Pre-Decisional - CLG comments

- Rocky Mountain Power’s 2023 Integrated Resource Plan 9-1-2023
- 2023 Bridger-Teton National Forest Fee Proposals 9-1-2023
- BLM’s Proposed Rule for Fluid Mineral Leases and the Leasing Process 9-22-23

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to ratify the comment letters that were submitted. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

Tom Burris

- Reported and attended the Rock Springs RMP Meeting.
- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) Meeting.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) Meeting.
- Worked on comments for the Ashley National Forest (ANF) and the select water committee.
- Dickinson explained that counsel has been working with other entities on a potential rider to potentially defund the Rock Springs RMP / and other western states, as there has already been precedence.

Stephanie Anderson

- Anderson attended and reported on the Rock Springs RMP Meeting.
- Reported on contacting WLCI on gathering more information for the Forest Service Collaborative.

Larry Folks

- Folks attended and reported on the Rock Springs RMP Meeting.
- Folks reported that he is continuing to reach out to Larry Hicks on the drop structure.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss reported on working on the District's Annual Report cover page and body.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Submitted the F-32 Audit to the Wyoming Department of Audit.
- Working on the Annual Report and Plan. The report is due December 30.
- Submitted the interim report for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Implementation Grant. The interim report was due on 10/1/23. Staff will submit a voucher request from WDA for the October water quality monitoring. The grant expires 10-30-2024.

Information and Education

WACD Annual Convention will be held November 15 - November 17- Contact staff if you would like to attend.

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, 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/