

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday January 4, 2024- 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 **January 4, 2024**, 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)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Mary Thoman, SWC Commissioner (SWC)
Rick Breiniger, (Associate Supervisor)
Randy Shipman (Associate Supervisor)

Absent: Stephanie Anderson, Henry Bliss, Supervisors (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded Jean Dickinson, to approve the December 7, 2023 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$8,565.28. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the reconciliation report for July, August and September 2023. Motion carried

Special Reports

Water and Environmental Technologies (WET)

- The WET team (Josh Vincent/Bruce Nelson) was not able to make the meeting. Staff will check with WET to ask about a future meeting/call.
- Staff was requested to contact WET to send the Board a work proposal.
- Staff was directed to add water quality monitoring under Unfinished Business on the agenda.

Randy Shipman

- Reported on more fallout from the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP). Shipman reported that the RMP glossary is erasing sections on multiple use and replacing it with other language.
- Reported on the Securities and Exchange Commission, they want to take federal lands and put them into private deals. The Government Accounting Office is rewriting all of the audits. Shipman reported on financial repercussions on stewardship lands and land holdings.

Mary Thoman

- Reported on the draft comments for the Rock Springs RMP and the task force meetings. Thoman reported that the task force is working on recommendations to give to Governor Gordon.
- Reported a zoom meeting that is scheduled today for the Dry Creek Pacific Atlantic Trona Mine. Thoman reported she will attend and comments are due by January 26.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

- Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD) staff engineer completed the camera inspection of the drop structure and his recommendation is the structure needs to be completely redone.
- Folks reported a scope of work and a proposal will be coming from LSRCD and that all the existing concrete, grout can be re-used for the new construction.
- SWCCD requests to meet with LSRCD at a work session meeting for February. SWCCD requests the results of the camera inspection, and the reason for a complete re-do. (bring to work session)
- Staff will keep Thoman and Shipman updated on the work session along with a County Commission invite to the work session.

WWDC Small Water Project Application

- The Board reviewed the Wyoming Water Development small water application that was completed and submitted by LSRCD.

2024 WACD Convention Discussion

Sweetwater will host the Area Meeting in September this year. The Board meeting is on September 5, 2024. After discussion, the Board decided to opt out of hosting convention this year in Sweetwater County.

New Business

Reorganizational Meeting

Sweetwater County Conservation District Election of Officers

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to re-elect the current slate of officers by unanimous consent with Tom Burris as Chairman, Larry Folks as Vice-Chairman, Jean Dickinson as Treasurer, Stephanie Anderson as Secretary and Henry Bliss as Member. The Chairman made three calls for nominations. There being no other nominations, the current slate of officers was elected Motion carried.

Officers are:

Tom Burris	-	Chairman
Larry Folks	-	Vice Chairman
Stephanie Anderson	-	Secretary
Jean Dickinson	-	Treasurer
Henry Bliss	-	Member

The following four **motions** were made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the banking, newspaper, bonding and mileage. Motion carried.

1. Sweetwater County Conservation District Banking

RSNB and First Bank will remain the official banks for the District. Motion carried.

2. Sweetwater County Conservation District Official Newspaper

Designate the Rocket Miner newspaper as the official newspaper for the District. Motion carried.

3. Sweetwater County Conservation District Surety Bonding

Pay the Treasurer's bond with Tegeler and Associates and keep Western Surety as the official District bonding company. Motion carried.

4. Sweetwater County Conservation District Mileage Reimbursement

Keep the mileage the same as the county rate, effective January 1, 2024, per District Policy, County Policy, and IRS. Motion carried. (67 cents per mile)

The following two **motions** were made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks to approve the Associate Supervisors Letter and Conservation District priorities. Motion carried.

Associate Supervisors

Staff will send a letter to current associates, asking if they would like to remain as an Associate Supervisor for 2024.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Priorities

- ❖ Water and water quality and listed streams
- ❖ Coordinate in local, state and federal land planning and implementation
- ❖ Community enhancement, involvement and outreach

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman and working with legal on comments for sage grouse and the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed rule changes.
- Reported that Aaron Muir, Field Manager for the KFO and PFO, recently retired and Sue Eickhoff left her supervisor position at the Ashley National Forest and moved to the regional office.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) December meeting held in Lyman.
- Reported and attended the Sweetwater County federal partner meeting.
- Communicated with Larry Hicks, LSRC, on the Drop Structure Project.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Completed all end of year reporting for the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) and Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA).
- Reported on thank you letter and book titled “Cowboys, Dogs & Horses” received from CJ Hadley.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ Tom Riccio Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/