

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 1, 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 **February 1, 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)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Russ Hamilton, Consultant WWC Engineering
Norm Hargis, Consultant WWC Engineering

Absent: Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the January 4, 2024 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 Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$10,361.17. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the reconciliation report for October, November and December 2023. Motion carried

Special Reports

Russ Hamilton and Norm Hargis, WWC Engineering

- Hamilton and Hargis, WWC, gave an update on the engineering firm and explained what services they provide to include:
 - Engineering
 - Surveying
 - Environmental
 - Water Resources
 - Licensed Geologists
 - Drones
- Hamilton is in the regulatory and permitting side which includes: Hydrology, with an environmental background.
- Hargis has a mining background with wildlife, range management and reclamation in the Rock Springs Office.
- WWC can follow up on grant writing services.
- Reported on the draft Bitter Creek Project Master Service Agreement (MSA) and draft work order outlining basic watershed proposal components through June 30, 2024. Provided a tentative scope of work with WWC costs for SWCCD evaluation.

Justin Caudill, WDA

- Reported on the WACD supervisor training that will be held February 20-22 in Cheyenne.
- Reported that WDA will be hosting a Western States Department of Ag tour and meetings, to discuss issues in western states. Caudill will let SWCCD about an upcoming tour if it expands in our area.

Jeff Lewis, NRCS (Written Report)

Farm Bill Activities

- A new farm bill was supposed to come out in 2024, but for right now, the 2018 Farm Bill is being extended
- The EQIP signup ended on January 19th.
- Currently there are seven applications in Sweetwater County and six applications for Uinta County.
- A new soil conservationist/planner started on Monday in the Rock Springs Field Office. Jeremy Skyes came over from the Rawlins BLM office and will be helping with range projects in Uinta and Sweetwater counties.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

- Folks provided an update from the work session held earlier today. Attendees included: Jean Dickinson, Stephanie Anderson, Larry Folks, Karen Pecheny and Randy Shipman, SWCCD; Mary Thoman and Island Richards, SWC Commission, Gene Legerski, SWC Public Works Director; Justin Caudill, WDA; Norm Hargis WWC; Mark Blakey and Larry Folks, LSRCD.
- Folks reported that LSRCD gave a brief history and provided recommendations on how to best fix the Drop Structure Project. Blakey drilled one hole for a camera inspection and hit dirt/mud as there was too much water running through the structure. The recommendation is to take out all the rip rap, concrete and look underneath to see where the problems exist and to look at the voids. The project would need to bring in fill material, but should be able to re-use the rock.
- Folks will follow up with D&D Construction regarding a bid for starting on repair work.
- Anderson said they were using soil for the project from the same location and thought they would need to bring in soil from a different location.

Water Quality Monitoring

Staff was directed to send the original engineering designs to Gene Legerski, Norm Hargis, Larry Folks and Larry Hicks.

WWDC Small Water Project Application

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the WWDC Small Water Project Application submitted by LSRCD. \$35,000. Motion carried.

Partnerships and Funding

Staff and Caudill will look into applying for the Desert Fish Grant.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Draft EIS for the Dell Creek/Forest Park Elk Feed grounds Long Term Special Use Permits Project 1-1624
- Comments on Proposed ACECs in the Rock Springs Field Office Proposed RMP -DEIS 1-17-24

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

Community Enhancement Grant – Advertise

The Board discussed the Community Enhancement Grant. Staff will advertise the grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due on April 1, 2024. Staff has updated the website and will send to media outlets.

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the Sweetwater County Commission Federal Partner Meeting.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman.
- Helped formulate comments on the Rock Springs RMP, elk feed grounds and ACEC's on the proposed RMP.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman.
- Reported on and attended the Sweetwater County Commission Federal Partners meeting.
- Reported on speaking with Larry Hicks, LSRCD, on the Drop Structure Project.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported on and attended the WLCI Executive Committee Meeting. Anderson reported that the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) received over 40k comments and the BLM will have to respond to those comments.

Staff Reports

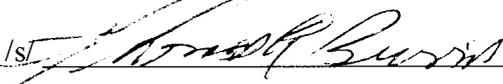
Karen Pecheny

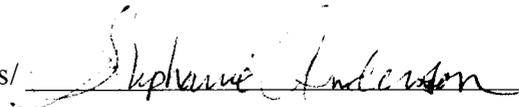
- Worked on the Community Enhancement Grant Ad and added to the SWCCD website, along with the SWCCD minutes, agendas and annual reports.
- Staff will advertise the Community Enhancement Grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due on April 1, 2024.
- Requested the remainder of the lab funds from WDA for the 2022-2024 biennium. The lab funds cost share with Subletter County Conservation District (SCCD) for water quality monitoring on the Little Sandy in Sweetwater County.

- Reported on the IT connection with the camera and computer/audio/TV connection for Zoom meetings. J. Moore, IT, believes there is an issue with the mini-PC. Staff recommended for IT to come in and trouble shoot the connection and purchase a new component.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to authorize staff to contact J. Moore to help with the connectivity issues. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/  Chairman

/s/  Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/