

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday May 2, 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 4:08 PM on **May 2, 2024**, at 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, Treasurer and Urban Supervisor, (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary
Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist, (NRCS)
Ashley Anglen, Executive Director (FSA)
Rick Breininger, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)
Dave Kimble, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW)

Absent: Larry Folks, Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to approve the April 4, 2024 regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, 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 \$9,274.66. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the reconciliation report for January, February and March 2024. Motion carried.

Sweetwater County Budget FY 2025

- Budget Workshops: Tuesday, May 21, and Tuesday, June 4, the Commissioners will be meeting with outside agencies, component units to discuss budget requests. (only if necessary)

Budget Hearing

The SWCCD budget hearing will be held Thursday, June 27, at 10:00 a.m.

Special Reports

Jeff Lewis, NRCS

- Lewis handed out the weekly Snow Report SNOTEL- Snow water equivalent as percent of median. This year the upper green is 79% in April 2024 compared to 133% in 2023.
- Working on contracting and have spent all the funding for this year.
- May have future work on the repair of the People's Canal (WWDC and BOR funds)

Dave Kimble, USFW

- Reported on partners for the Fish and Wildlife program. Kimble works for the private land's habitat program of the Fish and Wildlife program, which is voluntary and specific to wildlife habitat.
- Reported on a funding agreement USFW has with WACD. Kimble does individual agreements and works with other conservation districts, but now has a broader agreement.
- Working with and has a project with the Ramsay Ranch on building fences to make riparian pasture so the cattle won't have access/limited use.
- Working on earth plugs and building some dams on the tributaries on Trout Creek which are head cutting. (private land). Dam construction is planned for 2024.
- Kimble explained the plugs: Taking material off the bank to make a plug to stop the head cutting.
- WY Wildlife Natural Resource Trust is going through Trout Unlimited. (50k)
- USFW Partner Fish Wildlife Program would be via SWCCD (if approved). (28,200k)
- WACD sends the fund, plus 2% of project costs to SWCCD. SWCCD pays invoices to landowner and contractor on the project.
- Dickinson would like more information and explanation – due to the listing on Trout Creek and how it addresses the listing. Kimble will send staff a summary/breakdown of the project.

Rick Breininger, Associate Supervisor

Working on a back yard sanctuary, for birds/monarchs and animals.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions Drop Structure

- Burris said access to the site is still an issue.

Water Quality Monitoring/BKWAG Meeting

Staff handed out information on a WDEQ status report on chloride for Bitter Creek. The EPA study is complete, but Ron Steg WDEQ, needs permission to release it.

From Steg: "EPA completed a draft analysis to determine the natural background concentration of chlorides and it was inconclusive. I'll have to ask EPA if I can release the study. It is likely that what we are observing is a combination of both natural and anthropogenic chloride sources (which are ubiquitous throughout the watershed)."

The BKWAG Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 14, at the White Mountain Library. A virtual option will be available for participants.

WDA Water Quality Grant RFP

WDA advertised the request for proposal (RFP) for the 2025-26 fiscal biennium Water Quality Grant Program. This first RFP is open for projects addressing impaired waters listed on the WDEQ Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) reports. Deadline is May 24.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve and submit the 20k WDA water quality grant to WDA. Motion carried.

Community Enhancement Grant

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to un-table the Community Enhancement Grant for further discussion. Motion carried.

Burris spoke with Weed & Pest and found it is the right chemical application. Burris has concerns with the reputable application of the chemical. Burris will call John Freeman about his concerns.

The District received one grant application from the Green River Greenbelt Task Force, regarding chemical treatment for Russian Olive/Tamarisk trees along the river corridor.

Department of Revenue – Boundary Map

Staff was directed to get an estimate from Kent Felderman, JFC Engineering, regarding a legal description for the boundary to satisfy Dept. of Revenue. The District is in compliance with the Department, but the map was rejected.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the estimate for Kent Felderman for \$850.00 to prepare a certified legal description of the current Sweetwater County Conservation District's boundary in accordance with the map of same, as previously submitted to the Wyoming Department of Revenue. Motion carried.

Rocky Mountain Power Funding

Burris spoke with Ron Wild, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), regarding funding and was told about grants and funding. Rocky Mtn Power has a corporate 10k grant and a \$1,000. grant. Staff has not heard back from Rocky Mountain Power that was submitted by email for the \$1,000. grant. Staff will look into the RMP grant online. (10k)

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the \$1,000.00 request to Rocky Mountain Power. Motion carried.

Jackalope Wind Project Draft MOU

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Jackalope Wind draft MOU with legal's comments. Motion carried. Staff will work with legal on submitting the MOU with suggested edits. (D. Bettencourt primary and J. Dickinson alternate)

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Bridger Teton Forest Plan Revision & Initial Forest Plan Story May 3-29-24
- Comments on the BLM's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development 4-18-24
- Comments on the NOI to prepare and EIS for the ROW applications associated with the Project West Trona Mine Project 4-19-24

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

Cooperator Agency Request

- Project West Soda MOU
- Southwest Wyoming Co2 Sequestration Project MOU
- Sweetwater Carbon Storage Hub MOU
- Forest Service Old-Growth EIS

Cattle Chute

Burris talked to the Farson Feed Store and explained a lot of the bigger ranch operations have their own chutes now. Burris asked if the feed store could make sure they hand out the Lease Equipment Form and have them sign the form. The lessee is responsible for the maintenance of the chute and to bring it back operational.

Bliss will get the cattle chute form updated.
Burris will contact the mechanic to do the repair work on the chute.


A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to have Burris contact the mechanic for repair work. Motion carried.

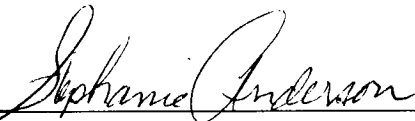
Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Submitted the county budget form for fiscal year 2025. Working on the state budget which is due June 1st
- Reported the District will have to do a Budget Hearing for a budget amendment from the operations budget to the administration budget at the June 6, meeting.
- Reported on working in System for Award Management (SAM) - SAM.gov. This allows the District to do business with the federal government. The registration is active until April 2025.
- Russ Hamilton, WWC, information requests. Staff is uploading project files and sending to WWC. Working with DEQ and WET for access to SWCCD files.
- SWC Budget Adoption in Thursday, June 27. Did the Board want that same day?
- Trees will be shipped and staff will be working on separating and contacting the customer.
- The Trees for Recycling Day will be held on Saturday, May 11, at the Ray Lavato Recycling Center. Staff will deliver the trees and be at the event.

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

1st  _____ Chairman

1st  _____ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/