

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday August 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 **August 1, 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)
Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Program Coordinator, (WDA)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)

Absent: Jean Dickinson, Stephanie Anderson Supervisors, (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the July 1, 2024, regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$8,217.41. Motion carried.

Budget Hearing Minutes

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the budget hearing minutes of June 27, 2024. Motion carried.

Final Budget FY 2025

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to ratify the final budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Jeff Lewis (written report)

Conservation Planning

- Currently, we are inspecting projects that are being installed.
- Surveying some potential projects for 2025.

Farm Bill Activities

- Out doing inventory for potential projects for 2025.

Project Activities

- Helping the new person with doing the wildlife evaluations for Henry's Fork monitoring and evaluation report for 2025.

Meeting Attended

- Irrigation water management training in Lander, July 9th and 10th
- All Employees Meeting, July 30th – Aug 1st.

Justin Caudill

- The next Board of Agriculture (BOA) meeting will be held in the second week of September.
- Discussed new funding opportunities for the Drop Structure Project.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

WWC Scope of Work for Bitter Creek Drop Structure

- Received the WWC engineering scope of work for the Bitter Creek Drop Structure.
- Evaluate the possibility of using ground penetrating radar or additional core drilling to collect information on the status of voids beneath the structure grout and on the underlying geology of the site.

Staff spoke with Russ Hamilton and WWC is in the process of getting a quote from a company to do the core drilling.

Water Quality Monitoring – Pathogen - (work order #2)

Water Quality Monitoring - Bitter Creek Pathogen 2024 monitoring on Rock Springs sites.

WWC sent a letter to the SWC Board of Health Director, Jean Stachon, and the Dept. of Health. The letter gave information on the sampling sites and locations and wanted to make the county aware about the sampling. Sampling started on July 15, and another sampling round was done on July 29. Two more sampling rounds are scheduled. Sampling on KC-1 exceeded and is above the recreational use threshold.

The results from the 7/29/2024 sampling event at sites BC-3, BC-3A, and BC-4 on Bitter Creek are all below the recreational use threshold of 235 organisms per 100 mL identified in the Waterborne Pathogen Public Notification Process,

Kim Lionberger, the Director of the Sweetwater County Public Health Department, is working to develop a plan for installing signage at KC-1. (SW County, WDEQ and City of Rock Springs are included in the notification).

A public service announcement was issued on Killpecker Creek. E.coli Detected in Killpecker Creek

“ROCK SPRINGS — Routine sampling of Killpecker Creek has detected unsafe levels of E. coli. Avoid contact with the water to prevent potential health issues. If you or your pet get sick after ingestion or contact with the water, call your doctor or veterinarian. This warning will remain in place until two sampling events confirm levels below the designated threshold. Sampling occurs at least every two weeks during the recreation season.”

The recreation season is from May through September. Russ Hamilton, WWC, explained to the group (email) that the district will be doing two more sampling rounds this season and to look at changing their PSA.

Resumption of the testing will have to be determined after SWCCD and the City and County all discuss what the best path forward is.

SWCCD Revised SAP 2022-2028

WWC revised the Sampling & Analysis Plan, and the revision was approved by WDEQ.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to sign and approve the Sampling and Analysis Plan SAP 2022-2028. Motion carried.

Cattle Chute

- Burris reported the chute is still under repair.
- Bliss had the form updated and the Board reviewed.

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the cattle chute form. Motion carried.

Area V Meeting - SWCCD Host

The Board discussed the area meeting to be held on September 25. Staff will send out information on the meeting when it becomes available. Staff looked into holding the event at the Green River College Campus meeting room, as the Hampton is unavailable. Staff will contact speakers to potentially speak on the Rock Springs RMP, or other topics.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Coalition of Local Governments' Comments on the Flaming Gorge NRA Draft Plan & Draft EA 7-1-24
- BLM's Notice of Scoping for a proposed Gather Plan to Remove excess Wild Horses from Herd Areas previously designated as HMA 7-8-24.

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

WACD 2024 State Annual Awards

The Board discussed the annual awards program through the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and nominations are due by September 1. Please let staff know of any potential nominees.

RSFO Invite to participate in developing Jackalope Wind 7-15

Received the invitation to participate in the Programmatic Agreement for the Proposed Jackalope Wind Project.

The deadline for participation is August 15. Staff will check with legal counsel on

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, seconded by Larry Folks, to direct staff to contact legal on the invite. Motion carried.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the irrigation district meeting with agricultural landowners. NRCS has the data, but the data is protected. (need the irrigation district contact list- to reach out to those irrigators)
- Attended the enterprise meeting at Sweetwater County Hospital.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the drop structure scope of work and spoke with D&D about the project.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss will be collaborating with staff on the Internal Audit and Annual Census Report. The report is due September 30.
- Bliss requested a new laptop. MS Office is not compatible with his current computer and is not able to do the email transfer. Jim Moore, Moore Tech, sent a quote to purchase a new computer.

After discussion:

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Henry Bliss to approve the purchase of a new laptop. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

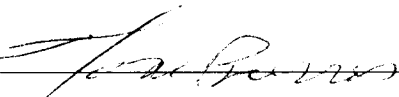
Karen Pecheny

- Sent in the final budget, due July 31, to the state and county.
- Moved the emails off from Network Solutions and onto MS Office. Jim Moore is also looking into QuickBooks online. The QuickBooks desktop version (which we currently have) will be changing to QB Enterprise. IT will look at which version would be more efficient.
- Reported on sending in the notary application renewal form, notary fee and test to the Secretary of State.
- Met with Norm Hargis, WWC, at the pathogen sampling site on Bitter and Sweetwater Creeks. (BC-2)
- Attended a zoom call with Area V on the 2024 Convention to be held in Jackson. November 18-21. Staff will get a list of vendors /sponsors for the event.
- The Area V Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, in Green River, hosted by Sweetwater County Conservation District. The Hampton Inn in Green River is not available for the September date. Staff and Bliss looked at the Green River College Campus meeting room. WIFI is available and will meet the needs of the meeting.

Information and Education

- RSFO White Mountain HMA Decision Record

Larry Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 5, 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/