

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday September 5, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.
550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman called to order the meeting of the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) at 4:00 PM on **September 5, 2024**, at 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY 82935

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Larry Foks, Vice-Chairman conducted a roll call and introductions. The following people were present.

Larry Folks, Vice-Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer, Urban Supervisor (SWCCD)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisors (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)

Absent: Tom Burris, Chairman and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the August 5, 2024, regular minutes as written. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, 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 \$12,124.53. Motion carried.

Department of Audit: Internal Self Audit – For Special Districts

The worksheets include Proof of Cash, Internal Control, and an Annual Report Summary. Reports are all due September 30, 2024. Henry Bliss is completing the audit. Staff sent the Proof of Cash worksheet to Jonny Lamb, accountant, to complete.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Annual Census Report/Internal Self Audit. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Henry Bliss, to approve the reconciliation report for April, May, and June 2024. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure – Conference Call

The Board spoke with Russ Hamilton, WWC, with questions on the Bitter Creek Drop structure review memo, structure observations and recommendations.

- Hamilton relayed that some construction inspection logs, and lack of information is sparse on construction for the existing project.
- Hamilton explained they would work with SWCCD to develop a plan for moving forward with a new design. WWC can develop a milestone table with associated tasks.
Hamilton will follow up with the engineering firm that would do the geotechnical review if the exploration could be completed this fall. (estimated 40k to do the core sampling).
- Staff sent the WWC memo to Little Snake CD. Hamilton will follow up with Larry Hicks/Mark Blakley from LSRCD and the SWC Engineer.

Grant Proposal for the Bitter Creek Drop Structure

- WWC Engineering can put a proposal together to write the grant for the Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation through the IRA.
- Accepting grant applications through October 14, Russ said that does not give WWC very much time to prepare the grant.
- Preliminary design would be included in the grant proposal, but pre-engineering is not an option due to grant time constraints.

After discussion, the Board decided to hold off writing the grant this year and potentially pursue it again in 2025.

Bitter Creek Pathogen

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

The *E. coli* samples collected on 8/12/2024 from BC-3, BC-3A and BC-4 on Bitter Creek and KC-1 on Killpecker Creek by WWC Engineering in coordination with the Sweetwater County Conservation District have been evaluated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for consistency with validation requirements.

-The results from the 8/12/2024 sampling event at site **KC-1** on Killpecker Creek remain above the recreational use threshold of 235 organisms per 100 mL identified in the Waterborne Pathogen Public Notification Process

-The results from the 8/12/2024 sampling event at site **BC-4** on Bitter Creek are above the recreational use threshold of 235 organisms per 100 mL

-The results from the 8/12/2024 sampling event at sites **BC-3 and BC3-A** on Bitter Creek are below the recreational use threshold of 235 organisms per 100 mL

The Sweetwater County Board of Health has posted signage at the sites where the exceedances are observed which advise the public to avoid contact with the water.

Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) – Bitter Creek Project

A revised SAP for the Bitter Creek Project now includes Addendum 1 to incorporate use of the SWC Environmental Health Lab to conduct sample analysis for the water quality sampling and pathogens.

BLM Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) Jackalope Wind Project

- SWCCD received an invitation to Participate in Developing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Proposed Jackalope Wind Project.
- SWCCD requested to participate in the PA development process for the Jackalope Wind Project.
- BLM said that an initial meeting will be held sometime in September. Staff will update the Board when information becomes available.

Cattle Chute

- Staff will check with Burris on the status of the chute.
- Update: Burris said the chute is at the repair shop and he will call and find out when the chute will be available.

Area V Meeting - SWCCD Host

The area meeting will be held on September 25, at the Green River College Campus meeting room. Staff sent the invite, agenda, map and 2023 minutes to Area V participants.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Southwest WY CO2 Sequestration Project Draft EA 7-30-24
- West Soda Infrastructure ROW Application EA 7-31-24
- Bureau of Land Management Wyoming's 2024 Fourth Quarter Competitive Lease Sale Draft Environmental Assessment: DOI-BLM-WY-0000-2024-0004-EA: 8-8-24
- Comments on the Scoping Notice for the Environmental Analysis for the Proposed Kemmerer Unit 1 Facility: 8-12-24

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

SWCCD August Newsletter

Staff completed and sent out the August newsletter, which included information on E. coli and chloride water quality within impaired reaches of Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creeks within the City of Rock Springs and pathogen sampling in Bitter Creek.

WACD Convention

- The State Convention will be held November 19-22 in Jackson.
- Need a voting delegate for convention – fill out form and return by October 21.
- Teton Conservation District is looking for donations to help bring down costs associated with registration. Staff will add convention to the October meeting agenda.

Annual Plan and Report

Staff will be working on the Annual Report and Plan of Work.

Little Sandy Project – Small water project with Wyoming Water development

The Board reviewed the Little Sandy Fish Project and protection project from WWDC. The project is in Sublette County CD, with a portion in SWC.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to support the project. Motion carried.

Supervisors Reports

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported that BLM is not funding WLCI 2024 or 2025 projects. They have not filled the vacant WLCI position but hope to fill it by the end of year. Anderson will find out more information and update the board in October.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the SWC Commission Federal Partners Meeting.
- Attended and reported on the Rock Springs Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan (RMP) Meeting held in Rock Springs.
- Attended and reported on the August CLG Meeting.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss will be working with staff on the Internal Audit and Annual Census Report. The report is due September 30.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

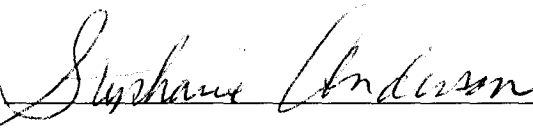
- Working on the internal audit with Supervisor Bliss and will submit to the Department of Audit by the September 30 deadline.
- Completed the August newsletter and sent it out to steering committee, agencies, and partners.
- Working on and sending out the Area V Meeting agenda, speakers and venue.
- Worked on the final grant report for the Bitter Creek Implementation Plan. The grant expires October 2024.
- Voting delegate for convention due October 21. Staff will place on the October agenda.

Information and Education

Information was included in the Supervisors' packets.

Stephanie Anderson made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 3, 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/