

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday October 3, 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 **October 3, 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 people were present.

Tom Burris, Chairman, and Rural Supervisor (SWCCD)
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)
Justin Caudill, Program Coordinator, (WDA)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the regular minutes as written on September 5, 2024. 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 \$26,173.90. Motion carried.

2024 F-32 Survey of Local Governments Form

Staff sent the Wyoming Department of Audit F-32 form to the Wyoming Dept of Audit. The audit was due September 30.

Justin Caudill

- Reported on the bonding for Conservation Districts. Caudill said they only pay out on a person who is prosecuted and convicted.
- Reported on the WACD state convention in Jackson and wild horse gathers and removals.
- Increases in the Local Liability Government Pool (LGLP) premium rates.
- Working with the BLM to create a Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with WLCI. This agreement will help provide a funding mechanism for federal dollars for the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative in SW Wyoming.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

Russ Hamilton, WWC, provided a written update on project status and budget.

- Staff sent the WWC memo to Little Snake CD. Hamilton will follow up with Larry Hicks/Mark Blakley from LSRC and the SWC Engineer.
- Staff will follow up with Hamilton on Geotechnical exploration.

Water Quality Monitoring Update/ Fall Water Quality Sampling Conducted

Fall 2024 synoptic sampling was completed on September 11, 2024, by Troy Summers and Jason Herden. Sample results are from the County Health Lab and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Lab and an initial review reveals no significant changes from past results. WWC will prepare a brief memorandum on the 2024 sampling and submit it to the board. Spring sampling is planned for May or June 2025. Both Fall and Spring sampling fall under the Monitoring Task 4 of the current budget.

- WWC has been able to couple SWCCD synoptic sampling with other work in the Rock Springs area and this continues to reduce costs and keep this Task within budget.

Bitter Creek Pathogen Update

2024 Rock Springs pathogen monitoring is complete. The WDEQ-WQD summer recreation season ended September 30th, and Norm Hargis and Ronda Zancanella took down the signage at BC-4 and KC-1 yesterday as a result. WWC will work with DEQ, Sweetwater County, and the city of Rock Springs on behalf of the SWCCD to evaluate if continued pathogen monitoring should be done next year and what that may look like.

The County Health lab has indicated that they will be available for future analysis for SWCCD and WWC will plan to take advantage of that. If pathogen sampling is conducted again next year the experience from this year will allow reduced costs, but potentially extending the program over the entire summer recreation season (May 1 through September 30) and possible addition of sites would necessitate a larger budget overall.

Staff was directed to contact WWC to find out if the city/and or County have any monitoring stations on Bitter Creek.

WDA Water Quality Watershed Based Plan Implementation Grant

The grant was approved and the timeframe for the project starts November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2026.

WDA Lab Funds

Staff submitted the lab fund voucher to the Department to request \$3,882.00 for the 2025-26 Biennium.

Cattle Chute

Burris reported the repair work has been completed on the chute and it is ready for use. Burris commented on a seventy-two-hour rental and on updating the rental form.

Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Convention

- The State Convention will be held November 19-22 in Jackson.
- Burris will be the voting delegate and Stephanie Anderson will be the alternate for convention. Staff will send in the form.
- Teton Conservation District is looking for donations to help bring down costs associated with registration.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Tom Burris, to designate Tom Burris and Stephanie Anderson as voting delegates. Motion carried.

Department of Revenue (DOR) Conservation District Boundary

Received an updated letter from DOR approving the legal description on the Conservation District Boundary. Letter dated 9-12-24.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- USFS Proposed Amendments to Land Management Plans to address Old Growth Forests across the national Forest System and DEIS 9-20-24.
- Protest of the Rock Springs Field Office Proposed RMP Amendment & Final EIS 9-23-24.

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

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Reported on and attended the CLG Meeting in Lyman.
- Attended and reported on the SWC Federal Partners Meeting.
- Attended the enterprise meeting the Area V Meeting held in Green River.
- Staff were directed to add the WACD sunseting policies to the November Board Meeting agenda.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on CLG meeting and helped with comments.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported and attended the WLCI meetings in Rawlins, Kemmerer, and Pinedale, and the Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 29. (by zoom or in Cheyenne)
- Anderson said she would like her name written in on the upcoming election ballot in November for Rural Supervisor.
- Attended and reported on the Area V Meeting held in Green River.
- Reported on a benefit roping at the SWC Events Complex on October 27, for Cliff Anderson who was recently hurt in an accident.

Larry Folks

- Attended the Area V Meeting held in Green River.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss will be working with staff on the Internal Audit and Annual Census Report. The report is due September 30.
- Attended the Area V Meeting held in Green River

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Submitted the Annual Report and the F-32 to the Department of Audit to the Wyoming Department of Audit.
- Worked on the final grant report for the Bitter Creek Implementation Plan. The grant expires October 2024.
- Eden Valley Solid Waste District has several big tree root balls in their landfill and wanted to know if we had an outlet to utilize these. Staff will check on the status.
- Working on the Annual Report and Plan. The report is due December 30.
- Submitted the Final Report for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan Implementation Grant. The Final report was due on 10/1/24.

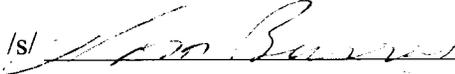
WNRF Foundation Fundraiser

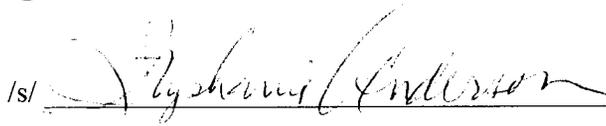
Tickets are available for \$20.00.

Information and Education

WNRF raffle fundraiser tickets are available for \$20.00 ea.

Stephanie Anderson made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 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/