

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday November 7, 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 **November 7, 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 and 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 October 1, 2024. 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 Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$20,633.53. Motion carried.

**Special Reports**

**Justin Caudill**

- Reported on the upcoming WACD Convention to be held in Jackson.
- Traveling to the Irrigation District Association meeting in Casper next week.
- Reported on the La Prele Dam by Douglas that affects two counties. The State ordered demolition of La Prele before springs issues. Mostly privately funded. They will be draining the dam due to crack issues. (La Prell Creek)

## **Unfinished Business**

### Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

#### Drop Structure

WWC Work Order / Geotech drilling.

SWCCD received work order #3 from WWC for Geotech drilling. The contracts are in place for AET to go forward with the drop structure geotechnical drilling.

- AET knows to expedite the drilling if they can. (currently scheduled for the week of November 18)
- SWCCD contracts WWC to conduct the drilling. WWC would do this using AET as WWC's subconsultant. Justin Terfehr, WWC, is going to be the principal WWC contact with AET and will be coordinating the drilling and WWC site time.
- WWC would have personnel for WWC's Laramie office stake the locations for AET.
- WWC would receive the drilling reports from AET and present these to SWCCD.
- WWC would review the reports and provide a brief memo to SWCCD detailing what the drilling data reveals about alternatives that may be practical to repair or replace the drop structure.
- Larry will follow up with Hamilton on site conditions at the structure.

#### WWC Work Order #3 Geotech exploration

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve and ratify work order #3. Motion carried.

#### Bitter Creek Water Quality Sampling and Other Agencies

The Health Department and the County Board of Health do not do any water quality sampling along Bitter Creek and is not aware of any others outside of the Conservation District who do.

#### WDA Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan Final Report

Staff submitted the final grant report for the Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan Implementation Plan. The report was due October 30, 2024.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to ratify the final report. Motion carried.

#### Bitter Creek Drop Structure Grant

The WDA grant expires on June 30, 2025, and staff will submit a Budget Justification Amendment and Extension for the Bitter Creek Drop Structure Channel Stabilization Grant.

A **motion** was made by Henry Bliss, seconded by Jean Dickinson, to amend and extend the Bitter Creek Drop Structure Grant to include pre-engineering, drilling, exploration investigation, and preparation of a report. Motion carried.

### Water Quality Monitoring

- The Board received the 2024 WWC Bitter Creek Site Visits and Semiannual Sampling Report dated 10-4-2024.
- Hamilton, WWC, said the memo talks about semiannual monitoring, and will be preparing another memo detailing the pathogen monitoring and tailor it for presentation to the city, county, and WDEQ (it may be a few weeks).
- WWC will provide more detailed water quality analysis for both types of sampling in the annual report.
- Staff added the report to the district's website.

### Cattle Chute

The form has been updated to include the seventy-two-hour rental. Staff will mail Burris the forms.

### Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Convention /Sunsetting Resolutions

- The State Convention will be held November 19-22 in Jackson.
- The Sunsetting Policies and Resolutions were included in the Supervisors' packets.
- Emergency resolution on the SUSTAINS Act and Credible Data.  
The USDA is implementing the Sustains Act that allows the USDA to accept private contributions to support conservation programs and determine ownership of "environmental services" on private lands. This would threaten private property rights and take them out of productive use. The USDA will administer the program. The new law will determine ownership of environmental services that are created on private land through the federal conservation program.

### New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Protest of the Proposed RMP Amendment and Programmatic Final EIS for Utility Scale Solar Energy Development 9-30-24
- Scoping comments on BLM 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Competitive Lease Sale; 10-28-24
- Comments on the USFS Revisions to Manual 2470- Silvicultural Practices 10-28-24

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

### WDA Education Function and Pursue Local Funding

The Board discussed the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) State Funding requirements for Pursuing Local Funding and Education Function for Elected Officials. The Board reviewed and signed both letters. Staff will send them to WDA as it is a requirement for financial and records reporting. Burris will sign the forms.

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Reported on and attended the CLG Meeting in Lyman and the Enterprise Meeting.

Jean Dickinson

- Dickinson helped with comments for the Coalition of Local Governments.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported and attended the WLCI meeting in Cheyenne. The WDA is writing a good neighbor agreement and partnering with WLCI for the funding mechanism. Anderson reported that BLM will not be working on funding for a year. Anderson will now be a representative for WLCI.

Larry Folks

- Attended the Coalition of Local Governments Meeting in Lyman
- Attended and reported on the Fire County Warden Protection Plan (CWPP) with Alan Adams, County Fire Warden. Folks reported there is a lot of planning and committees being put together and will be involving the oil and gas industry.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss is working on the 2024 Annual Report and Plan of Work.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Submitted the final grant report for the Bitter Creek Implementation Plan. The grant expires October 2024.
- Sent the tree order forms for the 2025 seedling tree season to tree customers. The order form is available on the district's website.
- Working on the Annual Report and Plan. The report is due December 30.

Information and Education

- WDEQ Dry Creek Trona Permit Schedule and the WDEQ Notice filing to the Ind. Siting Council for a permit for the Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1. Impact assistance and participation.

Jean Dickinson made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

*1st Tom Burris* \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

*1st Stephanie Anderson* \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/