

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday December 5, 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 **December 5, 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)
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary and Rural Supervisors (SWCCD)
Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Justin Caudill, Program Coordinator (WDA)
Randy Shipman, Associate Supervisor (SWCCD)

Absent: Jean Dickinson, Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Larry Folks, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the regular minutes as written on November 7, 2024. Motion carried.

Agenda

A **motion** was made by Stephanie Anderson, 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 \$12,836.21. Motion carried.

Special Reports

Justin Caudill

- Reported on the second round of Request for Proposals (RFP) for the water quality grant program for Conservation Districts on December 6, along with the Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP).

Randy Shipman

- Commented on the FASAB (Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board) Office of Management and Budget. (OMB) The federal government determined BLM and Forest Service is included in the new auditing system for recognizing federal lands. (the report is an accounting and reporting of government land, climate related financial reporting and intangible assets)
- Shipman has been reviewing over 70 Resource Management Plan (RMP's) and Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS's)
- Shipman handed out federal registers from December 5, 2024, on the Department of Interior National Park Service.
- Shipman said there are many lawsuits coming out on "Critical Environment" based on climate change.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

WWC Work Order / Geotech drilling update.

Folks spoke with WWC Engineering. WWC said the company was unable to complete the drilling in November. WWC said they will work with American Engineering Testing (AET) on scheduling a time to conduct the geotechnical exploration and keep the district involved.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Burris spoke with the City of Rock Springs Mayor and will reach out to the mayor again regarding the city's help with the pathogen water quality sampling on Bitter Creek. The Board discussed writing a grant for the second water quality RFP and including pathogen sampling.

Annual Report and Plan of Work

Staff handed out the Annual Report and Plan of Work. Please get comments back to staff as soon as possible.

Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Convention

- Burris spoke on the resolutions and sunseting policies.
- The sunseting policies were all extended for five years. Burris would like to see each of the sunseting policies brought to each board meeting for review.
- The credible data resolutions passed with keeping the water quality requirements and the sustains act passed with two resolutions.
- The keynote speaker was the NACD incoming president. The NACD annual meeting will be held in Salt Lake City in February.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Draft EA Terra Power, LLC's Proposed Kemmerer Unit 1 Preliminary Activities 11-20-24

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

SWCCD Supervisor Oath of Office

Rural Board Supervisor, Tom Burris, and Rural Board Supervisor, Stephanie Anderson were sworn in and took the Oath of Office. (4-year term)

Supervisors Reports

Tom Burris

- Reported on and attended the WACD Annual Convention in Jackson.
- Reported on and attended the Enterprise Meeting in Rock Springs.

Stephanie Anderson

- Reported on and attended the WACD Annual Convention in Jackson.
- Reported on type eight permit for elk hunting on private land. Anderson will speak to the Game and Fish and will bring the information back to the next board meeting.
- Anderson talked to the Forest Service and reported that they have rock crushers available in the Ashley National Forest. The F.S. will be redoing Lost Dog Road, which is in bad condition.
- Reported that Trout Unlimited (TU) started their projects on the Heny's Fork and WWNRT funded the fish project. TU is now staging a new fish barrier that will help with irrigation and fish habitat.

Larry Folks

- Made contacts with Russ Hamilton, WWC, on the drop structure project.

Henry Bliss

- Bliss worked on the Annual Report and Plan of Work.

Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Reported on and attended the WACD Annual Convention in Jackson.
- Worked on the Annual Report and Plan and all end of year reports for the district. The reports are due December 30.
- Working on seedling tree applications.
- Reported on the WYGAP Technical Assistance grants, the grant provides Technical Assistance Services. (Federal grants through the IRA and IJA and CHIPS Act. State grants through WDA, State Energy, WEA, WBC).

Justin Caudill spoke with the grants team and asked if the grants could be streamlined to make it more user friendly and easier to find and apply for funding opportunities. Caudill will be meeting with them later in December.

Information and Education

Information was included in supervisor's packets.

Stephanie Anderson made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the SWCCD Office, 550 Uinta Drive, Suite E, Green River, WY.

/s/ Justin Caudill Chairman

/s/ Stephanie Anderson Secretary

//Submitted by Karen Pecheny/