

SWEETWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCCD)
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 6, 2025 - 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 **February 6, 2025**, at the Sweetwater County Conservation District, 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 Supervisor (SWCCD)
Karen Pecheny, District Administrator (SWCCD)
Tanner Liby, District Conservationist, (NRCS)

Absent: Henry Bliss, Supervisor (SWCCD)

Minutes

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Larry Folks, to approve the January 2, 2025, regular minutes as written. 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 Stephanie Anderson, to approve the Treasurer's Report, and pay the bills in the amount of \$26,961.41. Motion carried.

Reconciliation Report

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve the reconciliation report for October, November, and December 2024. Motion carried.

Special Reports

- Tanner Liby is the new District Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Liby introduced himself to the Board, spoke about his background and would be working out of the Rock Springs and Lyman offices. Reach out to Liby if you have any questions.

Unfinished Business

Bitter-Killpecker Creek Update and Actions

Drop Structure

- Folks reported the drilling is completed and all seven bore sites are done.

Russ Hamilton, WWC, reported that the Geotech drilling was completed in January and went according to plan. AET will begin conducting their testing on the samples observed/collected and provide a report to WWC when they have the results.

USFW & WACD Cooperative Agreement Draw Down Request

Staff reported there is currently a funding pause, and it is in a review process. WACD and the landowner have been notified. According to Dave Kimble, FWS, they do have a backup plan if the funding is not made available and are still working out the details.

Jackalope Wind Energy Project MOU

The Board discussed the amended Memorandum of Understanding.

A **motion** was made by Jean Dickinson, seconded by Stephanie Anderson, to approve sign and submit the Jackalope Wind Energy Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the BLM Rock Springs Field Office. Motion carried.

New Business

Pre-Decisional – CLG Comments Re:

- Proposed Rule to revise Designation of Critical Habitat for the Contiguous U.S. Population Segment of the Canada Lynx

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

IT – Firewall

Jim Moore, IT, was made aware of a security flaw in the computer security system which protects the network from hackers and said it is a high security risk. Moore reported it is obsolete and no longer supported and will need to consider replacing it. The Board agreed to replace the firewall due to security risks.

Community Enhancement Grant – Advertise

The Board discussed the Community Enhancement Grant. Staff will advertise the grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due April 1, 2025. Staff will update and add to the website.

Sweetwater County Fire Warden Grant Letter

Alan Adams - Code Enforcement Specialist / Fire Warden, has been selected as a finalist for a grant that would go towards creating a Community Wildlife Protection Plan (CWPP) for the county, with a February 14, deadline.

Staff was directed to send Adams our Community Enhancement Grant Application.

Public Records Request: Open the Books

Received request on (1-27-25) and staff responded to their records request. Staff will get the information out to American Transparency. American Transparency requested a copy for employees and (fiscal year) an electronic copy of all payment transactions for calendar year 2024 or fiscal year 2023-2024.

Tom Burris

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman.
- Reported and attended the Enterprise Meeting in Rock Springs.
- Observed the bore site testing at the Bitter Creek Drop Structure site.
- Directed staff to include the WACD policy book chapters in the Board meeting agenda throughout the year.

Jean Dickinson

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman and worked with legal with comments on the Canada Lynz.

Larry Folks

- Attended and reported on the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) January meeting held in Lyman.
- Reported on and attended the Sweetwater County Commission Federal Partners meeting.
- Folks spent time helping with the Drop Structure Project, snow removal and assisted with getting the drill rig on site.

Stephanie Anderson

- Spoke with Gene Legerski, SWC Engineer, on repairs to county road one.

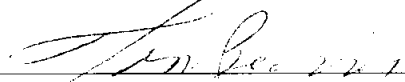
- Anderson reached out to WLCI and checked on the status of the coordination position in Cheyenne. Anderson does not expect the position to be filled for a year.

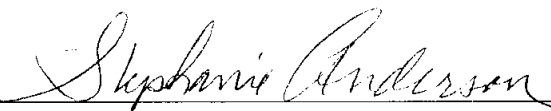
Staff Reports

Karen Pecheny

- Worked on the Community Enhancement Grant ad and will advertise the Community Enhancement Grant on various media outlets. The date for applications is due April 01, 2025
- Website changes. Working on the district's website. Staff reported that changes now must be made by the customer.
- The District received a check from Farson Feed Store for cattle chute rentals.
- Reported on the IT security system.
- Attended the bore site testing at the Bitter Creek Drop Structure.

A **motion** was made by Tom Burris, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, 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/