

WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
208 Shiloh Road
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401

MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) held their monthly meeting Monday, April 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Worland at the WCCD office. Members in attendance were; Kitsy Barnes, Vance Lungren, and Charley Orchard. Also in attendance was Victoria Dietz; WCCD District Director and landowner Caleb Kienlen and Farm Service Agency County Director, Sherri Harvey.

Vance called the WCCD board meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The board reviewed the March 16, 2015 board meeting minutes. Kitsy moved to accept the board meeting minutes as read. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; \$13,717.44 and Money Market account; \$211,754.27. The CD balance is \$16,397.06. The March bank statements for the main checking and money market accounts were reconciled by Vance. Charley moved to accept the financial statement and the reconciliation reports for both accounts. Kitsy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tori reported that the mill levy funds received to date is \$148,155.79.

The following vouchers were reviewed and approved:

VOUCHER	CK NUMBER	PAYABLE TO	AMOUNT
7622	Electronic	Susan Carrell	998.64
7623	Electronic	Victoria Dietz	2,670.76
7624	Electronic	Security State Bank	1,165.58
7625	7268	Daily News	367.80
7626	7269	Serlkay Printing	984.42
7627	7270	R.T. Communications	88.74
7628	7271	Dan Rice	205.85
7629	7272	Vance Lungren	29.23
7630	7273	Charley Orchard	305.33
7631	7274	Kitsy Barnes	71.30
7632	7275	BlueCross BlueShield	1,279.11
7633	7276	WEBT	13.88
7634	7277	Ag in the Classroom	100.00
7635	Electronic	Dept. of Workforce Services	110.41
7636	7278	Dept. of Workforce Services	172.98
7637	7279	Wyoming Retirement	568.80
7638	Electronic	Dept. of Revenue	4.80

7639	7280	Voided	
7640	7281	Robert Lytle	1.20
7641	7282	Cardmember Service	1,062.97
7642	7283	Hamilton Ranch, Inc.	3,000.00

NRCS REPORT

No NRCS representatives were in attendance. However, Laura provided the following DC Report via email prior to the meeting:

- Grants
 - Holden made some maps for the NWQI Monitoring
 - Voss As-built has been completed.
 - Jordan Farms AS-Built has been completed

- NWQI
 - We accepted a second round of applications to try to spend the money. The batching date was March 20th. We received an additional 6 applications.
 - The allocation we were given was \$575,000.
 - We are in the process of writing contracts. We ended up with five pivots and one gated pipe project in the 1st round of funding. They are estimated at \$450,000 total. We were able to fund 2 additional pivots for a total of \$528,053.
 - I have requested \$20,996 to fund one more pivot.

- EQIP 2015
 - All of our contracts have been written, reviewed and sent to the AO for review. Some of which have been sent on to the SO.
 - The biggest hold up right now on our contracts is the Cultural Resource approval. Since WY does not have its MOU with SHPO signed yet, all projects have to have a detailed report sent to SHPO and a letter sent to the tribes for approval. Once these are submitted they have 30 days to reply. Most of these require a site visit to write the report so they are all pretty much on hold since our 2 state Cultural Specialists have over 90 to do right now. Hopefully this MOU will be signed by mid-May and we can then move forward with business as usual.

- WCCD – Review and Signatures on pre-contracts
 - As soon as the SO approves our contracts so we can get signatures, I will e-mail you the plan maps to review.
 - Then someone can come sign them before they are obligated.

- CSP – Renewal Applications (2011 CSP Contracts)
 - We are currently writing these contracts.
 - We now have 4 of these.

- NRCS - Staff
 - Katelyn Shade has taken a position in Kaycee, WY as a Range Con. This is a lateral move, but will have additional responsibilities as she will be responsible for the office operations with direction from the DC in Buffalo.
 - I have signed the paperwork to fill her position with a Soil Con. Not sure how long that process will take.

WCCD EMPLOYEE REPORTS

Tori previously provided Susan Carrell's report to the WCCD Board via email. Tori's verbal report was as follows:

Gooseberry Creek Revegetation Project Update – Tori reported that she had submitted the research grant for the Gooseberry Creek Revegetation Project to the Department of Ag. She stated that she had received substantial help from Joe Scianna, Bridger Plant Materials Center Specialist in writing the verbiage for technical part of the grant. Tori added that she also received help from Ray Gullion, NRCS Range Conservationist in developing the plant list for the associated soils and landowner requests, from Holden Hergert in developing the project map, and from Jim Jacobs, NRCS Plant Materials Specialist in Montana. Tori reported that the Board of Ag will review the grant proposals during their June 9th meeting.

Cottonwood Grass Creek/Wyoming Natural Resource Trust Fund Update – Tori reported that she made Kitsy's suggested edits to the Cottonwood Grass Creek Russian olive/tamarisk removal report from Jarrod Glanz. Tori stated that, after checking with Jarrod, submitted the final report to Bob Budd, WNRTF.

Water Quality Monitoring Preparation - Tori reported that she has been currently working on the Bighorn River-Slick Creek Watershed Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and has it in the final stages and plans to submit to Cathy Norris at DEQ by Friday.

Tori reported that she has plans to meet with Dave Morneau at Popo Agie Conservation District and Kerri Sabey from Unita County Conservation District in Lander on April 30th for a refresher on her water monitoring equipment use.

OLD BUSINESS

Rural Cost Share Program – Tori provided the WCCD with a copy of the NRCS Trip Report from Holden Hergert for Wayne Voss's completed pivot project.

Special Discretionary Funds Program – Tori reported that Jordan Farms has completed their buried pipeline project and provided the WCCD Board with a copy of the NRCS Trip Report from Holden Hergert.

New Hire Update-Karen Fenton – Tori reported that she and Vance conducted the interview for the new Program Assistant position with Karen Fenton. Tori stated that she and Vance were both very impressed with not only her resume, but felt that her answers to the interview questions provided support for her experience and education. Tori reported that she and Vance both agreed to offer Karen the job. Tori reported that Karen will begin work on May 4th.

Nowood Watershed Improvement District (WID) Update – Tori reminded the WCCD Board of the upcoming joint board meeting for the Nowood WID on April 27, which will be held at Manderson Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Tori stated that the main reason for the meeting was to help take care of answering some the questions of the Nowood petitioners, to help everyone understand the process moving forward, and to consider moving the election to a later date. Vance stated that he would be able to attend and Charley stated that he would be using Google to be brought in.

Tree Program

-Machines Update – Tori reported that she has not yet advertised the tree planter or the weed barrier machine.

-Continue Selling Weed Barrier – Tori reported that she was currently out of Weed Barrier and wanted to make sure that the WCCD Board wanted her to continue with providing the product. Tori stated that residents cannot purchase it from any of the local businesses. Tori stated that the WCCD makes about \$600 per 20 rolls and usually ends up storing about half of it at her house over a winter. Charley suggested that WCCD continue to provide weed barrier, but order it in 10 roll increments so storage issues can be minimized.

Outdoor Classroom Seeding Project Update – Tori reported that Jarrod Glanz has completed the chemical spraying on the future range plant grasses at the Outdoor Classroom. Tori reported that Joe Scianna from the Bridger Plant Materials Center will visit Grace Godfrey’s Ag class this week to go over the site prep and watering needs of the grass plots, then on May 1st, will bring his crew to assist with the seeding.

NEW BUSINESS

Rural Cost Share Application Presentation:

-Caleb Kienlen - Split Rock Land & Cattle Buried Pipe Project – Caleb gave the WCCD Board an overview of his proposed project, which is to install 2500 feet of buried pipe to eliminate an open ditch. Caleb stated that he currently has allot of erosion as there is a 20ft. drop in elevation. He said that he does provide livestock water outside of the area, but the cows get in it and create havoc as well. He discussed the project with the board members and stated that, if funded, the pipeline would be a first phase, which could later be connected to a pivot system. Tori explained that the WCCD Board would be batching the applications during the May board meeting.

Annie's Project Sponsorship-Sherri Harvey, recipient of the WCCD’s Annie’s Project Scholarship, attended the meeting to summarize her six-week Annie’s Project session. Sherri thanked the WCCD for the funding and appreciated the opportunity to attend such a well organized, informative session. She highly encouraged the WCCD Board to continue to support it. She stated that the project is specifically geared toward women in Agriculture and they are taught how to handle change, time management, conflict, estate planning, retirement planning, marketing, soil health, investments, banking loans, fraud protection, and more.

NWQI Monitoring Update

- Tori provided the WCCD board with the signed agreement and consent form from Jeff & Tammy Kapptie for their review and signature. Tori stated that the Miller Coors site had significantly deteriorated since 2008, when the WCCD monitored at that site. Consequently, she had checked with Kapptie’s, whose land is across the highway, very close to the Coors site and they had agreed to allow monitoring to be done. Charley made a motion to approve the Landowner Agreement for Jeff & Tammy Kapptie. Kitsy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vance signed the Landowner Agreement. Charley made a motion to accept and recognize the signed Landowner Consent to Release of Information forms for Jeff & Tammy Kapptie. Kitsy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori reported that she has begun ordering all of the supplies, checking all of the water quality monitoring equipment and updating all of the monitoring forms and stated that her first day of monitoring will be May 11th. Tori stated that Jared Dalebout will be assisting her with monitoring and will be installing a continuous logger gauge at the Slick Creek Site.

WCCD Draft FY 2016 Budget Review/Discussion

-State Science Fair Support Consideration–Tori reported that she had contacted Tony Hoch at Laramie Rivers Conservation District for information on their science fair contributions. Tori stated that Tony and another employee from his conservation district spend several days judging over 200 projects each year and they provide two \$250.00 scholarships for natural resource related projects. Tony said their involvement is in partnership with the University of Wyoming and it takes allot of work. Kitsy suggested that Tori contact Grace Godfrey to maybe inquire about the science fair held in the Big Horn Basin and support more of a local sponsorship.

Tori went over the draft FY 2016 budget and pointed out any changes from the previous fiscal year and explained any new or proposed budget items. Tori stated that she would like to propose that the WESTI support be increased to \$1,000.00, but possibly more. She stated that she would contact the Extension Service to find out what an average cost of putting the event on. Tori reported that there have been several members of the Big Horn Basin Ag Ambassadors leave, that were very active on that board and she has visited with Caitlin Youngquist,

