

WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
208 Shiloh Road
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401

MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) held their monthly board meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference. WCCD Board members in attendance included; Dan Rice, Dave Slover, Charley Orchard, and Vance Lungren. Also, in attendance was WCCD Director Victoria Dietz, WCCD Program Assistant Halli Caines, and Laura Galloway; NRCS District Conservationist.

Dave called the WCCD board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Vance made a motion to approve the WCCD March 16, 2020 board meeting agenda. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD Board reviewed the draft February 17, 2020 board meeting minutes. Charley made a motion to approve the February 17, 2020 WCCD Board minutes. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tori will meet with Vance to sign the approved minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; \$7,227.63, Main Money Market account; \$77,449.19, Emergency Reserve Money Market account; \$119,627.92, Depreciation Reserve Savings account; \$3,027.94, and CD balance; \$17,130.11, in which Tori reported that the CD has recently been renewed at 1.2% for 12 months. The February 2020 bank statements for all accounts were reconciled by Tori Dietz and all reconciliation reports were provided.

Tori reported that the mill levy funding received to date is \$134,858.34.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with the monthly expenditure spreadsheet report from February 18, 2020 through March 16, 2020. Charley moved to accept the monthly expenditure and financial report. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following expenditures were approved:

Date	Payment To	Invoice Number	Check Number	Amount
2/20/2020	Dan Rice	9010	8323	\$500.00
2/20/2020	WESTI Ag Days	9011	8324	\$376.39
2/20/2020	Victoria Dietz	9012	8325	\$58.63
2/20/2020	Wyoming Water Association	9013	8326	\$100.00
2/20/2020	Washakie County Extension	9014	8327	\$200.00
2/24/2020	Local Gov. Liab. Pool	9015	8328	\$911.00
2/28/2020	Halli Caines	9016	Electronic	\$1,625.34
2/28/2020	Victoria Dietz	9017	Electronic	\$2,362.95

2/28/2020	IRS	9018	Electronic	\$1,370.36
2/28/2020	Wyoming Retirement	9019	8329	\$1,091.03
2/28/2020	Empower Retirement	9020	Electronic	\$1,000.00
2/28/2020	Wyoming Educators Life Trust	9021	8330	\$27.70
2/28/2020	WACD	9022	8331	\$244.10
2/28/2020	R.T. Communications	9023	8332	\$112.26
3/2/2020	Washakie County 4-H	9024	8333	\$125.00
3/6/2020	Wyoming BCBS	9025	Electronic	\$1,470.92
3/6/2020	Northern Wyoming News	9026	8334	\$241.50
3/12/2020	Cardmember Services	9027	8335	\$1,464.28

DC REPORT:

Tori provided the WCCD Board with the DC report, which was submitted by Laura Galloway via email, previous to the WCCD Board meeting. Laura gave the WCCD Board an overview of her report.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Tori provided the WCCD Board with her February 2020 Timesheet and gave the WCCD Board an update on the following; Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District (WID) Meeting report stating that she had attended the WID/Conservation District quarterly teleconference meeting; Update on NRCS Cooperative Agreement stating that we should be receiving it next week, according to Bobbie; BLM Cooperating Agency Status Request Letter; CD Sign on the Mountain Planning stating that she had received a quote of \$220 from Imagine That, the Sign company in Buffalo; Christmas Tree Chipping Planning stating that Big Horn Rural Electric would travel to Worland on March 25th to chip the Christmas Trees at the City of Worland's compost lot;

Halli Caines's monthly report was provided to the WCCD Board via email previous to the WCCD Board meeting. Halli gave a brief overview of her report and summary of the NRCS Local Work Group meeting she attended.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Local Work Group Meeting Report – Dan gave a summary of the NRCS Local Work Group meeting he attended on February 24th in Lovell and explained the need to change WCCD's priority watershed to Six Mile instead of all watersheds in Washakie County. Dan explained that NRCS did not yet know how the ranking will be done due to the new Farm Bill provisions.

OLD BUSINESS

Town of Ten Sleep/WCCD MOU Signing - Dan reported that he had picked up the signed copy of the MOU from the Town of Ten Sleep and will sign the MOU on behalf of the WCCD Board, as the MOU had already been approved. After some discussion, Dan stated that he would deliver the signed MOU to Lori and have her scan and email back to Tori.

Dan reported that the Town of Ten Sleep and the Ten Sleep Landfill have both agreed to contribute \$75 each per trip, to pay an operator to haul the recycling trailer to a recycling center. This will be in addition to the mileage contribution from WCCD.

Recycling Trailer Discussion -

-Modifications – Dan reported that he secured one of the partitions inside the recycling trailer and felt that it would hold for the time being.

Dan reported that the signage on the compartments of the recycling trailer don't correspond to what recyclables are collected. After some discussion, Dan stated that he would discuss the signage with Megan Truman, recycling coordinator, to find out what the needs may be, and report back.

Dan stated that he would like to keep expenditures at a minimum until it is known that the recycling program will continue.

-Hitch/Ball – Discussion was held regarding WCCD providing another ball and hitch for the recycling trailer. Tori stated that she thought there was a spare hitch in the WCCD Truck, so only the ball would be needed. Charley made a motion to approve funds to purchase a 2 5/16-inch ball for the recycling trailer. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vance stated that he would put the ball on the hitch.

-Comp/Collision Insurance – After some discussion about insuring the recycling trailer for Comprehensive/Collision insurance at \$42/year, the WCCD Board agreed that they would not insure.

-Tires – After some discussion about the need to replace the recycling trailer tires, Dan stated that he would bring the recycling trailer to Worland next time it's emptied to have the tires checked.

Revisit Local Work Group Watershed Selection – Discussion was held regarding the decision of Dan to change from Washakie County as a priority watershed to Six Mile, during the NRCS Local Work Group meeting. The WCCD Board agreed with Dan's decision to select the Six Mile watershed as WCCD's priority watershed.

Revisit Local Work Group Number of Resource Concerns – Tori reported that the WCCD Board had only ranked their top three resource concerns in preparation for the NRCS Local Work Group meeting. However, the rest of the conservation districts in Division III had ranked the same list of twelve resource concerns as last year, which messed up the average. Tori asked the WCCD Board to consider adopting the same priority list as last year to address the averaging issue. After some discussion, Vance made a motion to approve the 2019's Resource Concern Priority List for 2020. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Halli stated that she would contact Josh Kipley at Meeteetse Conservation District and provide him with the updated information.

BLM Grazing Regulation Revision Scoping Comments – Tori provided the final comments on the BLM Grazing Regulations, which had been submitted by the March 6th deadline.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulation Comments - Submitted March 10th – Tori provided the final comments she had submitted for the NEPA regulations, in which she stated she had simply endorsed WACD's NEPA Comments, which were also provided along with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's NEPA Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Rural Cost Share Program Application - Tori reported that she has received the signed agreement between WCCD and T & T Inc. from landowner, Tom Clark, which is ready for a WCCD Board member signature. Vance stated that he will coordinate with Tori to sign the agreement on behalf of the WCCD Board.

Special Discretionary Funds Application - Tori reported that she has received the signed agreement between WCCD and Coutis Land & Livestock from landowner, Jim Bower, which is ready for a WCCD Board member signature. Vance stated that he will coordinate with Tori to sign the agreement on behalf of the WCCD Board.

WACD Legislative Updates – Tori provided the WCCD board with WACD’s Legislative Updates #6, #7, #8, and the Final, which had been emailed as they had been received. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

WACD What's Up Email - Tori provided the WCCD Board with WACD’s What Up report for February 28, 2020 via email prior to the WCCD Board meeting, which included WACD’s Integrated Report Comments.

WACD What's Up Email - Tori provided the WCCD Board with WACD’s What Up report for March 6, 2020 via email prior to the WCCD Board meeting, which included WACD’s BLM Grazing Regulation Comments.

Northern Plains Riparian Grant - Tori reported that she has received a grant proposal from the National Wild Turkey Federation for projects to enhance Turkey habitat. Dave suggested contacting landowners along Gooseberry where there was success with tree and shrub plantings where Russian olive and tamarisk had been removed. It was also suggested that landowners in the Nowood watershed be contacted. Tori stated that the grant was due May 1.

Bighorn Forest Service Steering Committee – Tori reported that the Bighorn Forest Steering Committee will meet in Greybull on May 13th.

Washakie County's Draft Natural Resource Land Use Plan – Tori provided the Washakie County’s draft Natural Resource Land Use Plan to the WCCD Board and stated that the comment deadline was April 1. Tori reported that the county had included some of WCCD’s Natural Resource Land Use Plan policies throughout the draft. Tori asked the WCCD Board for any specific comments they would like her to submit.

Request for WCCD Employees to Work from Home – Tori requested that WCCD employees be allowed to work from home due to the COVID-19 Virus issue. Discussion was held. Charley made a motion to allow the WCCD employees to work from home until further notice, and to re-evaluate that decision during the April 20th WCCD Board meeting; to help participate in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. WCCD employees were given the flexibility to go to office as needed to gather documents.

Tori reported that she has developed a sign for the front door, which states the “work from home” announcement, which has both her and Halli’s cell phone numbers listed. In addition, Tori has developed a Facebook post with the announcement, which will ask the public to message through Facebook instead of publicizing their cell phone numbers. Tori stated that she and Halli will change the recording on their work phones to have people call their cell phone numbers.

Women’s Expo Planning - Funding Request – Tori reported that the Farm Service Agency will have their first planning meeting on March 25th to start discussions on hosting a Women’s Expo in August. Tori asked the WCCD Board for their consideration of contributing funds towards the Expo costs and stated that they had budgeted \$500 last year, but it had been cancelled. Dan made a motion to approve a \$500 contribution towards support for the 2020 Women’s Expo. Charley seconded. Motion carried.

Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District (WID) Annual/Financial Report – Tori provided the Cottonwood Grass Creek WID Annual Report to the WCCD Board and reported that she had sent it to Justin Caudill, Wyoming Dept. of Ag.

Ten Sleep Climbing Area Dog Waste Stations – Consideration to Provide – Halli reported that she has been participating in the Big Horn Climbing Coalition meetings on WCCD’s behalf and they have been working with the Bighorn Forest Service on a guide for best practices for rock climbing and its management on the Bighorn Forest. Halli reported that there is an issue with dog waste in the area and asked the WCCD Board for their consideration in contributing two dog waste stations and bags to the Ten Sleep climbing area. After some discussion, the WCCD Board asked Halli to do further research into the possibility of providing the dog waste stations and bags to the climbing coalition, instead of the Forest Service, so that the maintenance and upkeep would be the responsibility of the coalition.

BLM Pipeline Corridor Draft EIS-Comments - Tori reported that the comments for Cooperating Agencies for the BLM Pipeline Corridor draft EIS are due March 20th. The WCCD Board requested that Tori provide general comments to tie back to WCCD policies.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Middle Big Horn Level I Study – Tori reported that she has reviewed the draft Middle Bighorn Level I Study submitted by Y2 Consulting. Tori stated that she has been working on scheduling a call with Jodee Pring, Project Manager at Wyoming Water Development to discuss, but has not yet been able to connect with her.

CORRESPONDENCE OF HIGHER IMPORTANCE:

Federal Register Notice-NRCS RCPP; G & F Special Edition-Wildlife Crossings; Wyoming Association of Special Districts Legislative Update 02282020; WDA BLM Grazing Regulation Scoping Comments; Special District Association March 27 Meeting Notice; World Health Organization COVID-19 Alert; Washington DC COVID-19 Precautions; Governor Executive Order OCVID-19;

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:


Governor Exploring Land Purchase News Release; NACD News 02182020; NACD Clips 02212020; Northern Plains Riparian Grant; Governor Applauds Halt to Planned Mountain Goat Gunning; Governor Welcomes Federal Approval of Wyoming Hemp Plan; NACD News 02252020; NRCS News 02272020; NACD Clips 02282020; Federal Register 02282020 Sage

Grouse/Moneta; Federal Register 02282020 Disaster Assistance; NACD News 03032020; NACD Clips 03062020; NRCS News 03062020; Governor Additional News on Land Swap; BHB Dispatch 03102020; Dept of Ag Corner Post Newsletter; NACD News 03102020; NRCS Funds To Private For Public Access; Governor Sign Bills 03132020; NACD Clips 03132020; NACD Soils Champions; Governor School Closure Recommendations;

The WCCD Board meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: March 23, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Victoria Dietz, Director

 4/20/20

CHAIRMAN DATE

SECRETARY/TREASURER DATE