

WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
208 Shiloh Road
WORLAND, WYOMING 82401

MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

The Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) held their monthly board meeting and budget hearing on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Ten Sleep at the Ten Sleep Senior Center. WCCD Board members in attendance included; Vance Lungren, Charley Orchard, Dave Slover, Susan Pennington, and Dan Rice. Also in attendance was WCCD Director Victoria Dietz, and Emma Green, NRCS Soil Conservationist.

Dave called the WCCD board meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Dan made a motion to adopt the WCCD July 17, 2017 meeting agenda. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD board reviewed the June 19, 2017 board meeting minutes. Dave asked if the last sentence under NEW BUSINESS, Rural Cost Share Program Application, was correct. Tori stated that it was not correct, and Dave asked that the sentence be amended to read, "Gary stated that if his project was not funded by NRCS, he would withdraw his application". Vance made a motion to approved the June 19, 2017 minutes as amended. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with hard copy of the typed June 19, 2017 executive session minutes, which had been approved during the June 19, 2017 WCCD Board meeting, and asked for Dave's signature, which was then signed.

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; \$4,579.86, and Money Market account; \$197,525.61. The CD balance is \$16,633.83. The June 2017 bank statements for the main checking and money market accounts were reconciled by Tori and the reconciliation reports were provided. Tori reported that the mill levy funding received to date was \$1,814.65.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with the monthly expenditure spreadsheet report from June 22, 2017 through July 17, 2017. Dan moved to accept the monthly expenditure report. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following vouchers were reviewed and approved:

VOUCHER	CK NUMBER	PAYABLE TO	AMOUNT
8259	7769	Maggie's	496.44
8260	7770	Verizon	10.00
8261	7771	Hanford's Sprinklers	501.00
8262	7772	Hanford's Sprinklers	200.00

8263	Electronic	Dusty Vail	456.20
8264	Electronic	Karen Fenton	1471.75
8265	Electronic	Vanessa Woffinden	342.16
8266	Electronic	Victoria Dietz	2684.71
8267	7773	BlueCross BlueShield	1355.86
8268	7774	Wyoming Retirement	892.49
8269	Electronic	Security State Bank	1202.00
8270	Electronic	Dept. of Workforce Services	527.23
8271	7776	Dan Rice	62.06
8272	7777	Vance Lungren	8.56
8273	7778	Charley Orchard	233.36
8274	7779	Dave Slover	34.24
8275	7780	Susan Pennington	27.82
8276	7775	WACD	69.00
8277	7781	Karen Fenton	225.00
8278	7782	Kennedy Ace	40.00
8279	7783	Daily News	306.00
8280	7784	Sublette County CD	215.30
8281	7785	Hanford's Sprinklers	713.40
8285	7789	Ten Sleep Tribute	30.00
8287	7791	Serlkay Printing	1943.00
8282	7786	RT Communications	92.64
8283	7787	WCDEA	75.00
8284	7788	Ag in the Classroom	250.00
8286	7790	Ten Sleep Tribune	25.00
8288	7792	Cardmember Services	1651.98
8289	7793	High Plains Power	462.81

DC REPORT

Dicksie Michael, acting NRCS District Conservationist, provided the below written DC Report via email, prior to the WCCD Board meeting, which was presented by Emma Green:

Acting DC

Dicksie Michael from the Powell NRCS Field Office will be acting DC through the end of September while Laura Galloway is on a detail (CSP Program Manager) for the State Office.

CTA Assistance

- None to report at this time

Current Program Contracts

- We continue our normal designs, modifications, completing as-built's and making payments on previous year contracts.

2017 EQIP/NWQI Programs

- The Division (Big Horn, Park and Washakie) had requested another 1.4 million dollars to continue funding EQIP applications. The division was given approximately \$640,000 with Washakie funding two more applications (Sprinkler subaccount) for approximately \$178,000.
- Current EQIP obligations per subaccount – Flood - \$9218, Grazinglands - \$12,108
- Current NWQI approved (awaiting signatures from producers and final obligation) – Lower Nowater - \$455,311 (one producer decided to not move forward with their application funding)

LOCAL WORK GROUP DIVISION I MEETING

- Minutes forwarded – recommendations from the meeting will be presented by Tim Morrison – Meeteetse CD at State Technical meeting

EWP

- Some possible projects but landownership is being determined along with eligibility for program

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

We are continuing to complete a list of trainings through AgLearn and OJT to keep our certified planner status.

Tori provided the WCCD Board with the draft Division I Local Work Group Meeting Minutes, and an email from Rory Karhu, NRCS District Conservationist in Powell, regarding asking for WCCD board input on Division I priorities. Tori explained that Tracy Renner, Meeteetse Conservation District board member attended the NRCS State Technical Committee meeting in Casper today and presented the Division I Local Work Group priorities. Tori stated that Rory explained that the minutes from the June work group meeting were sent out as final, at too late of a date for input on them, to finalize, and were also inaccurate. Tori stated that Rory had redone the minutes from his notes and recollection, and had sent those draft minutes out last Thursday, which she had forwarded on to the WCCD Board. Dan voiced his concern with the word, “ensure” in item 4 (b)(2), “Implement grazing management plans on rangeland that ensure adequate native vegetative cover”, and asked Emma if this language was actually from the Local Work Group meeting attendees. Emma said she would find out. Emma explained that since the WCCD Board had not attended the meeting, the NRCS would still like to know, of the three priority areas presented by Laura Galloway at the Local Work Group meeting; Elk Creek, Gooseberry Creek, & Middle Nowood Creek, if there was one area the WCCD Board would prefer that next year’s dollars be spent on in Washakie County. After further discussion, Dan made a motion to ask that the Middle Nowood Watershed be considered as a priority watershed for 2018 EQIP funds. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Tori provided the WCCD Board with a copy of the Department of Ag’s Big Horn River-Slick Creek Watershed Implementation grant final report and gave an update on the Rain Garden project progress.

Tori gave an overview of several potential Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects that she was made aware of recently. Tori stated that she has been working with Jeff Schweighart with Washakie

County Emergency Management, Brian Berky and Mike Donnell, with the City of Worland and NRCS personnel on gathering information for the NRCS EWP program.

Tori reported that two of the range grass plots at the Outdoor Classroom that she and Karen had seeded this Spring had been doing well early on, but when they check on them last week, discovered that they were covered with Switch grass and were about ready to go to seed. Tori stated that Karen had suggested that the plots be mowed and bagged, which she had asked Dusty to do. Tori stated that Karen thought the plots may need to be redone again this fall. Dave suggested that the plots be left until Spring to be evaluated, before they are reseeded.

Tori provided Karen and Vanessa's monthly report prior to the WCCD Board meeting via email, also including the Wildfire Preparedness workshop flyer, which Karen had developed.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2018 WCCD Budget Hearing - Dave called the WCCD Budget Hearing to order at 8:04 p.m. There was no public in attendance. Tori provided the WCCD Board with the WCCD FY Final Working Budget spreadsheet and identified the budget items that had been updated since the June 17, 2017 WCCD Board meeting. After some discussion, Dan made a motion to approve the WCCD Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Bighorn Forest Steering Committee Meeting - Tori provided the WCCD Board with the agenda for the upcoming Bighorn Forest Service Steering Committee meeting on August 29th. Dan stated that he planned on attending.

WACD & Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association (WCDEA) Outstanding Employee Nominations – Tori requested that Karen Fenton be nominated by the WCCD for the Area III Employee award and the WCCD board concurred. Dan suggested that Steffen Cornell, with Meeteetse Conservation District, be nominated for the statewide WACD Employee award and the rest of the WCCD Board concurred. Tori stated that she would have Karen work on Steffen's nomination and she would write Karen's nomination up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Improvement District (WID) Elections Legislation – Tori provided the WCCD Board with a copy of an email from Justin Caudill, Dept. of Ag, regarding the County Clerk interpretation of the new legislation regarding the WID elections. Tori stated that the Washakie County Clerk and Attorney were in concurrence with the County Clerk interpretation Justin had shared and that elections for the Nowood WID board would be held in November of 2017. Tori stated that had not yet heard back from Darcy Axtell with Hot Springs Conservation District and their County Clerk's view. Tori stated that she has informed Darcy that WCCD will need to know by July 26th as the proclamation for the Daily News will need to be sent to the newspaper by that date, in order to be published by the deadline of July 29th. Discussion was also held regarding the shift from a three-year term to a four-year term, and Dan stated that he thought it would be treated the same as when the initial WID Board was formed, where the WID board members would cast by lot, who would have a two-year term and who would have a four-year term.

Local Work Group Input Request – Tori provided the WCCD Board with a copy of the email from Steffen Cornell asking for input on the Division I Local Work Group priorities, a copy of the Division I Allocation of Funds document, and a copy of the Division I priority map. Discussion held on this agenda item is located under the DC Report (above).

Outdoor Classroom Windmill Repair – Tori reported that the windmill at the Outdoor Classroom had blown over and have been damaged. Tori stated that Dusty Vail, the WCCD Outdoor Maintenance person had provided her with a list and photos of the damage and she had ordered the parts. Tori stated that Dusty will be fixing the windmill once the parts arrive.

Annual Plan Draft Review – Tori provided a draft Annual Report to the WCCD Board, asking for input. Tori stated that since the new Natural Resource Land Use Plan was adopted, there were additional goals added since last year and she didn't necessarily have action items to list in the Annual Plan associated with those, for this coming year. Tori asked the WCCD Board to look over the new goals and help her determine any actions they would like her to include, and also stated that she will discuss them with Karen. The WCCD Board agreed that there was no need to include all of the goals that are in the WCCD Natural Resource Land Use Plan, in the Annual Plan, if there are no action items at this time.

Ten Sleep Recycling Trailer - Worland Landfill Request – Tori reported that she had received a call from the Worland Landfill Manager regarding the Ten Sleep Recycling trailer and asked if the WCCD Board was ok with the landfill placing several dumpsters at Ten Sleep Town Hall and coming over to empty them twice a month, instead of having to unload the trailer (currently hauled every month from Ten Sleep to Worland). Tori stated that the Landfill Manager had checked with the Ten Sleep Town Clerk who had thought that would be fine, but he had not yet spoken to the Ten Sleep Mayor about it. Tori stated the landfill has a truck that needs to be driven about 30 miles several times a month to alleviate emission problems, therefore, going to Ten Sleep to pick up recyclables would eliminate that issue with their truck. Tori reported that the Landfill Manager told her that the recycling trailer has to be unloaded by hand and when help is short, they cannot always unload it the same day it is hauled. In addition, he told Tori that motor oil had been dumped in the last load and the whole load was contaminated and had to be landfilled. Tori stated that she talked to the manager about the possibility of the WCCD providing the recycling trailer to another organization and the manager stated that he would just as soon not deal with the emptying of the trailer. In addition, the Landfill Manager told Tori that they no longer recycle newspapers or magazines as the company they sell to does not accept it, so all of that is now landfilled. Tori told the WCCD Board that she had asked the Landfill Manager if, once it is decided that the landfill truck will go to Ten Sleep to pick up the recyclables, they might also consider emptying the cardboard dumpster at the Ten Sleep School. The Landfill Manager agreed to offer that service as well and said they could also replace the existing dumpster at the school, if it was not designed to be used with their truck. The Landfill Manager asked Tori if the WCCD Board might consider helping them with fuel costs if they end up providing the service. The WCCD Board agreed that if the Town of Ten Sleep was in favor of the Worland Landfill placing dumpsters and hauling the recyclables, they were ok with the idea.

After some discussions, Dan made a motion to pay the fuel costs for the Washakie County Landfill to pick up recyclables in Ten Sleep, at \$30/trip, up to two times per month, and to request that WCCD be invoiced once a month. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori stated that she didn't think the existing dumpster at the Ten Sleep School was equipped with the arms needed for the Landfills truck and asked the WCCD Board what they would like done with it. The WCCD Board agreed to keep the dumpster and try to contact another entity that could use it for recycling. Dan offered to haul it to Worland, if needed. The WCCD Board agreed to have Tori try to sell the recycling trailer.

NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Sponsorship Draft Letter - Tori provided the WCCD Board with a draft letter she had drafted, based upon a template that had been provided by James Bauchert, the NRCS EWP Specialist in Casper. Tori explained that the letter was necessary to submit with the Washakie County Commissioner sponsorship form, to begin the process of applying for EWP funds. Dan made a motion to approved the sponsorship letter to NRCS regarding EWP projects due to the Big Horn River and Nowood River flooding in 2017. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave signed the letter.

WACD What's Up - July 10 Email – Tori provided the WACD What's Up email from July 10th to the WCCD Board prior to the WCCD Board meeting, including the Attorney General Opinion and Summary of Impacts of SF15 – Dan explained that, due to the interpretation from the Attorney General on the SF15 legislation, conservation districts were now lumped in with Municipalities and would be required to have a yearly CPA Audit. Dan explained that WACD is working on contacting legislatures to seek sponsorship to rectify this issue, as this was an unintended consequence of the language in the bill.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee Openings – Tori provided the WCCD Board with an email from Grant Stumbough, FSA, regarding if there is interest in serving on FSA County Committees.

Hot Springs Weed & Pest & (Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District (WID)) Tour – Tori provided the WCCD Board with a flyer from Hot Springs Weed & Pest for their upcoming tour on July 18th. Tori stated that the Cottonwood Grass Creek WID board had coordinated with the Hot Springs Weed & Pest to also showcase some of the work they had done, which would also count towards their commitment to hold an annual tour of WID projects.

Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation-Gator Tickets – Tori reminded the WCCD Board that she had tickets available for the fundraiser for the foundation.

WACD Request for Input on BLM Planning – Tori provided the WCCD Board with an email from WACD regarding a request for responses to a list of questions regarding BLM planning and NEPA. Dan stated that he had provided his input on his experiences and thoughts to WACD, having been WCCD's representative as a Cooperating Agency for the BLM's Resource Management Plan revision.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bighorn Basin Dispatch; NACD News 06202017; NRCS News 06192017; DEQ Request for Proposal Delay; Discover Native Plants Field Day; Co. Comm. Assoc. Comments on BLM Planning; 2017 Delinquent Brands News Release; Bark Beetle Funding Email; NRCS News 06262017; NACD News 06282017; EPA Rescinds Waters of the US; Firewise Email Update; Firewise Newsletter; Bighorn Forest Service SOPA; Federal Register-Grizzly; NACD News 07042017; NACD News 07112017; BHB Dispatch; Stockgrowers Award; Governor Endorsement to Updates to Endangered Species Act


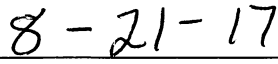
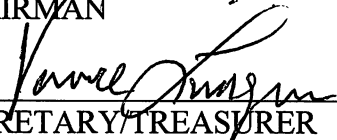
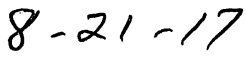
CORRESPONDENCE OF HIGHER IMPORTANCE:

Bighorn Forest Steering Meeting Notes from Karen Fenton; Bighorn Forest AUM Decrease Information; Bighorn Forest Booth PowerPoint; Bighorn Forest AUM PowerPoint; Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Report from Karen Fenton

Susan made a motion to adjourn the WCCD Board meeting. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Date: August 4, 2017

Respectfully submitted by: Victoria Dietz, Director

	
CHAIRMAN	DATE
	
SECRETARY/TREASURER	DATE