

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, October 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Worland at the WCCD office. WCCD Board members in attendance included; Dave Slover, Dan Rice, Vance Lungren, and Susan Pennington. Also in attendance was WCCD Program Assistant Karen Fenton, and special guest Dave Myer, Wyoming Water Development Commission.

Dan called the WCCD board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and introductions were made.

The WCCD board reviewed the September 19, 2016 board meeting minutes. Vance moved to approve the September 19, 2016 WCCD board meeting minutes. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan reported the following financial account balances that had been provided by Tori Dietz: WCCD main checking account; \$2,973.84 and Money Market account; \$157,122.11. The CD balance is \$16,539.19. The September bank statements for the main checking and money market accounts were reconciled by Tori Dietz and the reconciliation reports was provided by Karen. Dave moved to accept the financial statement and the reconciliation reports for both accounts. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following vouchers were reviewed and approved:

VOUCHER	CK NUMBER	PAYABLE TO	AMOUNT
8050	7606	Merle Pitz	65.00
8051	7607	Dan Rice	504.90
8052	7608	Charley Orchard	141.48
8053	7609	Vance Lungren	29.16
8054	7610	Dave Slover	97.20
8055	7611	Susan Pennington	21.06
8056	7612	Ten Sleep Senior Center	120.00
8057	Electronic	Dusty Vail	288.13
8058	Electronic	Karen Fenton	1349.90
8059	Electronic	Vanessa Woffinden	750.33
8060	Electronic	Victoria Dietz	2683.71
8061	Electronic	Security State Bank	1232.46

8062	7613	Verizon Wireless	10.08
8063	7614	Wyoming Retirement	870.37
8064	7615	BlueCross BlueShield	1355.86
8065	7616	Wyoming Educators	13.88
8066	7617	WACD	529.00
8067	7618	Wyo. Water Assoc.	100.00
8068	Electronic	Dept. of Workforce Services	485.62
8069	7619	R.T. Communications	88.84
8070	7620	Maggie's Café	113.40
8071	7621	Kennedy Ace	68.46
8072	7622	NACD	1776.00
8073	7623	Serlkay Printing	492.00
8074	7624	Daily News	79.20
8075	7625	Solid Waste District	15.00
8076	7626	Cardmember Service	1726.65

DC REPORT

Laura Galloway was not able to attend, but provided the following written DC Report via email prior to the WCCD Board meeting:

2016

- We are finishing up designs and starting to do as-built on the 2016 contracts.

2017

- The first batching date for EQIP and AMA applications will be October 21st.
- We have sent out deferral letters to all applicants who did not get funded in 2016.

WACD Meeting

- The DC's have all been approved to attend the WACD meeting in November. We will be having an all-day DC meeting the first day and then attending the rest of the WACD events. You can let me know if there are specific meeting you want me to go to.

NRCS Trainings

- We all have to attend a 3-day CSP training by the end of October. It is offered the last two weeks of the month

EMPLOYEE REPORTS

Employee reports from Karen Fenton and Vanessa Woffinden were provided to the WCCD Board via the WCCD Board meeting website agenda. Tori provided specific notes regarding agenda items via the WCCD Board meeting website agenda due to her inability to attend the WCCD Board meeting as follows: FY 2016 Annual Report – This report was completed and sent in before October 1; WID Election Update - Karen has been taking care of getting the poll book updated and the ballots sent. This year Darcy at Hot Springs Conservation District and Jan at South Big Horn Conservation District will

contact canvass board members and schedule a date to canvass each election, to be done within 7 days of the election; 4th Quarter 319 Grant Report – This report was mailed on October 13th; WDA Sage/Slick Implementation Program Annual Report - This report completed and mailed the end of September; Nonpoint Source Task Force meeting October 19th - Karen has been preparing a power point presentation and will present the WCCD 319 grant proposal to the Nonpoint Source Task Force in Casper on October 19th. Jennifer Zygmunt at DEQ has offered to help present and assist with the presentation also and Tori worked with Karen on addressing DEQ's comments on the proposal; Airport Road Project Update – Contacted Cole Francis, landowner again about moving forward with burying the irrigation pipeline and he did not return my call. The NRCS Engineer said all three landowners needed to bury the line to make it a closed system that could be pressured up, so I'm going to again ask the Department of Ag for an amendment to our grant and switch it over to helping with the Rain Garden. I've also committed to a tour, which I still plan to do once the Rain Garden is done and will tour the completed sections of Airport Road and a few other projects as well in late spring of 2017.

Dan commended Vanessa for the great job she has been doing with getting into the schools with the Natural Resource Education program and Karen for the great job she has been doing in keeping up in Tori's absence and stated the WCCD Boards' appreciation.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Nowood Watershed Improvement District (WID) Quarterly Joint Conservation District (CD) Meeting Report – Dan and Dave reported that they had attended the October 3rd Nowood WID joint CD quarterly meeting at the Manderson Fire Hall. Dan stated he was provided a copy of their previous meeting minutes and said it would be a couple of months before they began receiving their assessment funds. Dan also reported that he gave the Nowood WID Board an update on the Special District Task Force proceedings.

OLD BUSINESS

Natural Resource Land Use Plan Review/Update – Karen asked the WCCD Board for input on whether or not they would like to add more information in the Oil & Gas section of the plan. Dan stated that he felt it was sufficient and even though it doesn't fall into the conservation venue, it does support WCCD's custom and culture beliefs and tax base for supplying the needs of our communities. Karen also asked for input on developing supporting documentation for Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). Dan stated that he would like the plan to state the support of historical use of oil & gas, livestock grazing, and recreation instead of making a statement of doing away with WSA's. to give WCCD direction on instead of making a statement of being against WSA's. Karen stated that she also thought the multiple use section could also be used to support why WSA's aren't supported. Dan stated that he would like the plan to live longer then just one issue such as WSA's and agreed that the multiple use section would help do that. Dan added that he would like to see Karen Budd-Falen's comments before making a final determination to see if there is specific direction given.

-Karen Bud Falen Cost to Review – Karen provided a contract from Budd Falen Law Offices for consideration of the WCCD Board's approval. After some discussion, Dave made a motion to retain Budd Falen Law Offices for the purpose of having Karen Budd Falen review and comment on WCCD's Natural Resource Land Use Plan, and pay the \$1,000 flat rate plus incidentals. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan signed the contract documents.

NEW BUSINESS

Bighorn River Level I Study Information – Dave Myer attended the meeting and spoke to the WCCD Board about questions he had about the watershed, asking for feedback on several items, went over the Wyoming Water Development (WWDC) meeting schedule indicating when sponsors would need to attend and purpose of the meetings. Dave Myer stated that even though the WCCD and South Big Horn Conservation District (SBHCD) were jointly sponsoring the study, there would only be allowed one vote. Dave Myer explained that there had been a suggestion from his office, that the proposed Bighorn River Level I Study be combined with the Upper Greybull Level I Study. Dave Myer stated that he didn't think combining the two studies was a good idea due to the variance between the two basins, such as water use, land area, and having one consultant serve three sponsors. Dave Myer stated that the WCCD would need to be able to support/defend either putting the two studies together or not. WCCD Board did not support combining the two studies and provided Dave with information regarding how they thought the two basins differed as follows; Boysen Dam provided a more reliable water source, versus Gooseberry Creek and the Greybull River not being as reliable and pointed out snow pack differences; Sediment loading is different in that 15 mile and elk creek run in response to storm events which deposits large sediment loads; land use majority in the Upper Greybull is grazing, versus cropland in the Bighorn River; and Upper Greybull has more tributaries that feed the basin therefore providing more year-round tributary input.

Dave Myer asked the WCCD Board for reasons why they were asking for a Level I Study for the Bighorn River. Dan explained that (SBHCD) had approached WCCD to co-sponsor the application and the WCCD Board felt that it was a worthwhile study to substantiate our resources, project possibilities, and identify resource concerns/issues. Dan stated that it would also open the door to additional funding for projects stating that the area has fairly old water rights with probable old structures in need of repair and a need for water storage. Vance stated that he thought a lot of improvements could be done and this was a way to get them off the ground.

Dan asked for consideration of including recognition to WCCD for past BMP implementation accomplishments in the study and include on looking at impact of past BMP implementation. Dave Myer stated that he could weave that into one of the tasks the plan will address in the scope.

Dave Myer provided the WCCD Board with a copy of the WWDC meeting schedule, a sample scope of services for a typical watershed study, and the draft recommendation he had put together that he would need to be finalized before the November WWDC meeting. Dave Myer reported that the draft estimate for the study is approximately \$325,000 and would take a year to complete. Dave Myer stated that someone from the WCCD would need to attend the November WWDC meeting in Casper, where the WWDC will make their decision on what projects they will fund. Dave stated that he would get back to WCCD as to whether the November meeting would be on the 10th or 11th. Dave Slover stated that he may be able to attend the November 10th meeting, or possibly the morning of the 11th. Dan stated that he assumed that Tori, Karen, or both would also be in attendance.

Dave Myer stated the importance of providing the consultant with specifics if there are known issues so they could hit the ground running once awarded a contract. Dave Slover asked if groundwater and/or geologic information would be included in the study to help landowners determine where to find water. Dave Meyer stated that the study is geared more to surface water, but would take groundwater

interaction with surface water information into consideration, but would need to ensure that they remain within the budget. Karen asked Dave Myer if they study would assess the existing canal systems. Dave Myer stated that it depended upon the size of the canal systems and the study would probably include the smaller canals, but only acknowledge the larger ones, again depending upon the budget.

WACD Convention Draft Agenda - November 15-17 – Dan reminded the WCCD Board of the upcoming WACD Convention in Riverton. Dan stated that he, Karen and Tori would be attending. Dave and Vance both indicated that they would be attending at least one day of WACD Convention, but would not need a motel room. Karen reminded the WCCD Board that she would need to know by October 31st on which days Dave and Vance would be attending to get the early registration discount. The WCCD Board discussed the three resolutions and made decisions on whether or not they would support as follows: Forest Resiliency – Vance made a motion to support the Forest Resiliency resolution. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried; Resource Conservation Partnership – There was discussion that, as worded, the language says the NRCS should deny programs and the conservation districts can't tell the NRCS what to deny or not deny. Dan stated that WCCD does not want to be in a place of “denying” what a landowner sees as beneficial to their operation. The WCCD Board agreed that if the language changes after being worked in the committee, they may support and will leave that decision up to the voting delegate. Dave made a motion to not support the Resource Conservation Partnership resolution. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried; Woody Biomass – Susan made a motion to support the Woody Biomass resolution. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave made a motion to approve Dan as the voting delegate for the WCCD Board representation at the upcoming WACD Convention. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karen discussed with the WCCD Board, some ideas for the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association Silent Auction and agreed that WCCD would spend up to \$75.00. It was decided to leave the final decision of what to purchase up to Tori.

Dee Hillberry Request for Future Small Water Project Administration – Karen gave the WCCD Board an overview of Dee Hillberry's request for WCCD to sponsor and administer all future Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District (WID) WWDC Small Water Project applications. Karen stated that Hot Springs Conservation District recently raised their administrative fee to the Cottonwood Grass Creek WID landowners for small water project applications from \$250.00 to \$500.00. After some discussion, the WCCD Board agreed that they were not willing to sponsor any WWDC Small Water Projects outside of Washakie County.

Community Compost Grant - Request to Oversee and Apply – Karen gave the WCCD Board an overview of what the Community Compost Grant would entail, the grant timeline, how the request from Washakie Extension and the City of Worland came about, what entities had shown an interest in involvement, and background information of existing compost efforts in the community. Karen stated that the grant is a planning grant from the Jane Musser Foundation and the WCCD was an obvious choice as applicant for the grant after looking at their criteria. After some discussion, the WCCD Board agreed that composting is within WCCD's mission and policies. Susan made a motion to have WCCD write and administer the Community Compost Grant. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WACD Legislative Update 09212016 – All WACD Legislative Updates for September 21 were provided to the WCCD Board previous to the WCCD Board meeting which included: Discussion Points on Special District Legislation, Special District Budget Requirements, and Special District Dissolution by Commissioners. There was no discussion regarding the 09212016 Legislative Update.

Wyoming Water Association Meeting - October 26-28 – Dan reminded the WCCD Board of the upcoming Wyoming Water Association meeting and stated that he may try to attend the day of the River Restoration session.

County Commissioner Meeting - October 18th - City Clean Up – Karen gave the WCCD Board an overview of email discussions between Tori and Brian Berky with the City of Worland, and her understanding of what the City was proposing to do and the County Commissioner’s request to attend their October 18th meeting to discuss. Dan stated that proper waste disposal and recycling education are part of the WCCD policies. The WCCD Board discussed the possible need for a clean up day and what had been done in other towns, but weren’t sure of the level of involvement that was being asked of them. Susan stated that she felt that part of the problem of residents and businesses finding garbage beside their dumpsters is that the landfill started charging for disposal. In addition, Susan felt that in order to reduce the amount of garbage being thrown away, a cost reduction incentive from the City would help reduce the City’s total bill to the landfill. Dan stated that he and Karen planned to attend the meeting to listen in.

Owl Creek Watershed Study Information – There was no new input discussed on this topic.

CORRESPONDENCE

EPA Action to Reduce Pollution; Bobbie Email Response to Keith; BLM Meeting Plan List; BLM Workload Undertakings; Special District Task Force Minutes 09202016; NACD News 09272016; NRCS News 09262016; Baker Field Day; BHB Dispatch 09282016; Bighorn Forest News Release on Recreation Site Analysis; Bighorn Forest Letter from Bill Bass; Excess Horse Information; FSSOPA; Special District Task Force Meeting Notice; NRCS Update 10042016; Play Clean Go Videos; NACD News 10042016; Fence Flyer; WWDC Criteria: Draft Rules, Commission Delegation of Authority, Consultant Performance, Updated Agenda; NRCS News 10062016; NACD News 10112016; SGIT Meeting Notice; NRCS News 10122016; Forest Service Planning Rule Email; Forest Service Planning Rule Amendment Fact Sheet;

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. by Dan Rice

Date: October 30, 2016

Respectfully submitted by: Victoria Dietz, Director (Via notes from Karen Fenton and recording)

Dan Rice 11-21-16
CHAIRMAN DATE

Na W. Sloan 11/21/16
SECRETARY/TREASURER DATE