

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, December 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Worland at the WCCD office. Members in attendance were; Charley Orchard, Vance Lungren, Susan Pennington, and Dave Slover. Also in attendance was Holden Hergert, NRCS Acting District Conservationist, and Victoria Dietz; WCCD Director.

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

The WCCD board reviewed the November 16, 2015 board meeting minutes. Dave moved to accept the board meeting minutes as written. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; \$5,079.75 and Money Market account; \$211,720.74. The CD balance is \$16,405.82. The November bank statements for the main checking and money market accounts were reconciled by Vance Lungren. Charley moved to accept the financial statement and the reconciliation reports for both accounts. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following vouchers were reviewed and approved:

VOUCHER	CK NUMBER	PAYABLE TO	AMOUNT
7804	Electronic	Jenn Rasmussen	150.06
7805	Electronic	Karen Fenton	1323.46
7806	Electronic	Victoria Dietz	2683.71
7807	Electronic	Security State Bank	1076.90
7808	7410	Sage Creek Land & Cattle	10,000.00
7809	7411	CAN Surety Direct	429.75
7810	7412	WACD	1000.00
7811	7413	Ten Sleep Tribute	60.00
7812	7414	Doug Bleak	34.58
7813	7415	Virginia Baird	42.63
7814	7416	Teresa Shelton	25.38
7815	7417	R.T. Communications	88.69
7816	7418	Otter Creek Grazing	4395.54
7817	7419	BlueCross BlueShield	1355.86
7818	7420	Verizon Wireless	10.08
7819	7421	Wyoming Retirement	864.56
7820	7422	WAIC	250.00
7821	7423	Daily News	90.00
7822	7424	Mtn. West Farm	600.00

7823	7425	Bureau	
7824	7426	Cardmember Service	938.24
7825	7427	Voided	
7826	7428	Voided	
7827	7429	Ten Sleep Tribute	20.00
7828	7430	Signs of Sutherland	81.00
		Ten Sleep Tribute	30.00

NRCS REPORT

Holden Hergert provided the following DC Report via email prior to the meeting as follows:

EQIP 2016

- Applications have been ranked.
- Met with Big Horn and Park County to ensure consistency in screening and ranking of applications
- We have not yet been given our allocation
- Next step will be deciding how many applications we will be funding based on the allocation amount and interest in each subaccount (high efficiency, flood, Russian olive removal, soil health, rangeland, etc.)
- No information yet on NWQI

NRCS Activities

- Ranking EQIP Applications
- EQIP Cost Estimates
- Gathering and compiling eligibility documents
- 2016 EQIP/CSP Planning
- Assisting other offices with mainly CSP
- As-builts for EQIP/319 projects
- EQIP and CSP payments

Soil Health Training Conference at Greybull

- Marlon Winger, new NRCS Soil Health Coordinator from Idaho, located in Casper, gave a great presentation. Should be a good resource.
- Brendon Rocky (Colorado potato farmer) gave a presentation in the afternoon
- Good turnout of about 30-40 people
- One producer from Washakie County and one from Hot Springs County

Ray Gullion is back from Casper acting as State Range Conservationist for the past three months.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS: WCCD employee reports for Karen Fenton and Jenn Rasmussen were provided to the WCCD board via email prior to the meeting.

ERG Teleconference Reports – Tori reported that she had participated in two different teleconferences, both regarding discussions related to the BLM RMP and issues/concerns about BLM's responses to comments to the RMP by the local governments and whether to move forward with a protest for key items related to the Lands With Wilderness Characteristics inventory, lack of social economics, data quality and Master Leasing Plans.

BOARD REPORTS:

Legislative Lunch – Both Dave & Charley gave an overview of the meeting held with the Washakie County Commissioners, Representative Greear and Winters. Topics discussed included the State Engineers Office well permitting procedure and potential upcoming legislation and the Joint Corporations Interim Committee regarding Special Districts. Other topics that were discussed included the WCCD's water quality monitoring data collection on Sage Creek and Slick Creek and potential reduction of bacteria where pivots have been installed under the National Water Quality Initiative, Western Watersheds and the Trespass legislation, support of the Wyoming DEQ's Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) model, County Commissioner Economic Study status, Wilderness Study Areas, Lands With Wilderness Characteristics, local efforts of recycling, specific to composting, and the Hot Spring Conservation Districts mill levy plans and outreach strategy. Tori stated that she had invited the Hot Springs Conservation District, where Darcy Axtell attended, to help them fulfill their base funding obligations, but had head from the legislatures that they felt future joint meetings with other conservation districts was a great idea.

OLD BUSINESS

WCCD Natural Resource Land Use Plan Updates on Recreation & Minerals & Oil and Gas Development – The WCCD board updated two policy sections in the Natural Resource Land Use Plan with the following results:

Recreation

Goal – WCCD encourages recreational activities that provide opportunities for economic development and maintain the custom and culture of Washakie County, while ensuring conservation of the rangeland, water, and soil resources.

Recreation Policies -

- i. Explain that recreation is multiple use of state and federal lands and WCCD supports the historical access on these lands.
- ii. Promotes the value of natural resources through education of multiple use ethics (sharing of the land) and good stewardship by recreational users.

It was noted to reference data for economic benefits of recreation be put in front of the plan under tourism and recreation.

Minerals and Oil and Gas Development

Goal – WCCD supports minerals and oil and gas production and will provide information and education on the importance of the conservation of our natural resources. The minerals and oil and gas industry is a significant part of the custom and culture of the district, and it provides economic stability to Washakie County.

Minerals and Oil and Gas Development Policies –

- i. Support the continued development and extraction of minerals, and oil and gas within federal and state jurisdiction in keeping with the local and regional custom and culture in order to maintain the economic stability of Washakie County.

It was noted to find data of dollars into the county for oil and gas and reference in front of document

- ii. Encourage mineral, and oil and gas production to be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and to ensure Industries continuance is compatible with the principles of multiple-use on public lands.

It was noted to provide a support sentence in front of the document regarding what is meant by environmentally responsible. Examples thought to be reclamation, weed control, erosion control, road closures/access.

Larry Warner - WCCD Board Signatures on Application/Agreement – Tori explained that she had not received WCCD Board member signatures on the approved application for Larry Warner during the November board meeting and also presented the WCCD board with the agreement that had been signed by Larry Warner, asking that both documents be signed, which was done.

319 Grant Program Update (Amendment Requested) – Tori explained that she had requested an amendment to DEQ for the 319 grant, to move funds from Rangeland/Riparian to Cropland. Tori stated that there had been allot more cropland projects applied for than thought when the grant was written and after the amendment is approved, minimal funds will be available in the Rangeland/Riparian task. Tori stated that she plans to focus her efforts on the Small Acreage/Urban projects, specifically the Airport Road project, the rain garden demonstration area, and the stormwater project north of Worland.

Ten Sleep Recycling Program Update (Trailer Hauling/Recycling Bins) – Tori explained that she found that the first trailer load of recyclables from Ten Sleep, since the reorganization, didn't quite go as planned as the Worland Landfill had not been able to empty the trailer on the same day it was delivered. Tori stated that she had been in contact with Gene Cliame at the Worland Landfill and also Mayor Haggerty in Ten Sleep to assist with working out possible solutions so the trailer could be emptied the same day it was brought. Tori stated that Mayor Haggerty had reported to her that he had discussed the trailer emptying with Gene Cliame and hoped he had things worked out for the future.

Tori reported that the Big Horn Bar in Ten Sleep has agreed to allow WCCD to put one of the recycling dumpsters behind the bar for the collection of aluminum cans. Tori stated that she has also coordinated with the American Legion and they would be collecting the cans and asked that pallets be placed inside of the dumpster to raise the bottom so they could reach the bagged cans. Tori stated that Dan Rice had hauled the dumpster to Worland and she would need to sand and paint it before it is taken to Signs of Sutherland to have the WCCD logo and "Bagged Aluminum Cans Only" lettering put on it. Vance stated that he thought his grandson may be willing to sand and paint the dumpster. Tori stated that the other dumpster is still at the Rice Ranch and understood from Dan that one of the lids needs to be replaced and the rod holding the lids was bent. Tori said WCCD has a spare lid and would check with Dan to see about the rod. Tori reported that Karen Fenton had checked into the possibility of placing the second dumpster at the office and the American Legion said they would pick the cans up there as well.

Big Horn-Nowater Watershed Plan Adoption – Signatures – Tori reported that the public comment period for the Big Horn-Nowater Watershed Plan had ended on December 15th and she had not received any comments. Dave made a motion to adopt the Big Horn-Nowater Watershed Plan. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tori provided the signature sheet to the WCCD Board for their signatures.

Nowood Watershed Improvement District (WID) Update - Tori reported that she had received an email from John Joyce asking that the 1st joint quarterly meeting with the Nowood WID Board would be held on February 1st at 7 p.m. at the Big Horn County Fire District #3 in Manderson. Tori stated that she had requested that a teleconference line be set up to allow for a teleconference meeting and had not yet heard back from John as to whether or not that will be an option,.

NRCS/WCCD Agreement Update – Tori reported that she had received an email from Grant Stumbough, NRCS, stating that he was still waiting on NRCS national headquarters for more information regarding what happens during a government shutdown, but it didn't look good. Tori stated that Grant has hopeful that he would have some solid information by the first of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Tree Recycling – Tori reported that the Christmas tree collection days are scheduled for Ten Sleep on January 8th, and for Worland on January 9th. Tori stated that Karen has been working on the advertising and flyers and has made the contacts with the Ten Sleep Sage Stompers. In addition, Tori reported that Aaron Anderson had requested that signs be provided for his property for the Ten Sleep collection drop site and Karen was having those signs made by Signs of Sutherland and would install them. Tori reported that she could use some help on the Worland collection day and would be providing rolls and coffee and the volunteers would meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Washakie County Fairgrounds.

Washakie Watersheds Steering Committee 319 Applications Ranked & Recommended For Funding – Tori presented an application from Mike Gerber for a septic system project and from Gene Schreibeis for an irrigation project. Tori reported that both applications had been approved and recommended by the steering committee to be funded. Charley made a motion to approve Mike Gerber's septic system project. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dave made a motion to approve Gene Schreibeis's irrigation project. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-Sage Creek Land & Cattle - Previously Approved Hake Pivot Supply Line Project Changes – Tori explained that there had been in-depth discussions during the steering committee meeting on the Hake Pivot Supply Line project due to updates to the cost estimate by the applicant. Tori stated that she had found that the updated cost estimate included items that were ineligible for 319 funding and the project had been re-ranked by the steering committee at a lower priority than the original ranking.

-Discussions of Suggested Updates of Process & Ranking Discussion – Tori stated that there were concerns from steering committee members that not enough information is known when a project is ranked and she plans to ask NRCS to accompany her to groundtruth future projects before ranking occurs to help reduce questionable eligible components to the projects. Tori reported that she will be adding language in regards to the new groundtruthing requirement prior to the steering committee ranking, to the 319 applications. In addition, currently 319 applications are due to WCCD by the first Friday of each month, then reviewed by the steering committee on the second Tuesday of each month. Tori stated that, due to the groundtruth component being added, the steering committee had agreed to change the application due date to the end of each month.

Tori reported that the Washakie Watersheds Steering Committee had voted unanimously to fund medium priority ranked projects at 50% cost share and would not be funding low priority ranked projects. Tori reported that discussions were held regarding when medium priority projects would be considered and it was suggested that they be considered during the last quarter of each year. Tori explained that medium priority projects had not been discussed previously, as the steering committee had determined that only high priority projects would be funded the first year, but the first year ended on September 30th, 2015.

-Sage Creek Land & Cattle - Hake Drain Completed – Tori reported that the Hake Drain project had been completed and she had received a trip report from NRCS that it was installed properly. Tori stated that Holden Hergert, NRCS acting District Conservationist, had alerted her to the fact that the drain pipe began within an area that had cattails and suggested that she contact Ray Gullion, NRCS Range Specialist to ensure that it wasn't in a jurisdictional wetland. Tori checked with Ray and reported that the project was inside of a wetland area, but it was considered an artificial wetland and caused by irrigation, so could have disturbance. Tori stated that she would insure that the wetland layer would be included in future project maps so it is known ahead of project ranking whether or not the project is associated with a wetland.

WACD What's Up Email – Tori provided WACD's What's Up email previous to the board meeting. Tori gave the WCCD Board an overview of an email from Dan Rice regarding the process that Wyoming County

Commissioners Association was going through with the counties to address Wilderness Study Areas, which indicated that conservation districts needed to decide if they wanted to be part of the process and have a representative. In addition, the WCCD board discussed the possible issues with the new NRCS Resource Stewardship Tool and how there were several items that NRCS will be evaluating, such as air quality and greenhouse gas, that were of concern. Tori stated that, included in the new tool, is a requirement that in each state, all contracts in one National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watershed would complete a Resource Stewardship Evaluation and it is unclear what that would mean.

Rural Cost Share Program Update -

-Jesse Kysar Request For Extension to March 15, 2016 – Tori reported that Jesse Kysar's pivot project was almost completed, but the deadline was December 15th and he wanted to extend the agreement in case it was not able to be finished due to winter weather. Charley made a motion to extend Jesse Kysar's agreement to March 15, 2016. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-Split Rock Land & Cattle Request For Extension to April 15, 2016 – Tori reported that Caleb Keinlen asked that his agreement be extended and reported that his pipeline project was complete, but the pond still needed to be installed and it may not be able to get done until spring. Dave made a motion to extend the Split Rock Land & Cattle agreement to April 15, 2016. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-Sage Creek Land & Cattle - 35 Acre Pivot Completed – Tori reported that Steve Snyder called her when he had his pipeline dug up and NRCS was in Lander for training, so she was instructed by Laura Galloway on how to proceed and obtained the measurements and photo documentation for NRCS to certify the project. Tori stated that she received the NRCS certification and has paid for the project.

NRCS National Water Quality Initiative Request for Closure of Bighorn-Slick Creek – Tori reported that she had received an email from Mary Schrader, NRCS, on December 14th, asking for documentation to discontinue the Bighorn River-Slick Creek NWQI. Tori stated that WCCD was given 4 days' notice as it was due back to Mary by December 18th. Tori said she was able to pull together her outreach documents for the past three years, provide a map with the completed projects that NRCS had developed for her, and wrote a letter to explain WCCD's decision to move on to another watershed. Tori provided the WCCD Board with what she had submitted to NRCS.

WESTI Ag Days Planning - Request Input For Topics – Tori reported that she and Karen are working with Caitlin Youngquist on WESTI planning and asked the WCCD Board for their input on any topics they would like to be presented as a session. Susan suggested something on solar stock tanks and said she had been looking into some ideas for her own property and would send Tori a link that may be of interest. Charley suggested a session on hoop houses. Tori stated that the year's WESTI would be a farm/ranch full day on a Friday and a Small Acreage session the next day. Tori also stated that they planned on having a panel discussion on regulations affecting Ag producers and would be contacting Doug Miyamoto and Bobbie Frank to ask them to present those topics and ask for any other topic presenters. Tori said that the WCCD would be doing a lot of work on the planning this year as Caitlin would be gone the whole month of January, and reminded the WCCD Board that the event is scheduled for February 19th and 20th.

2016 Calendars – Tori provided the WCCD Board with the new 2016 calendars.

Web Site Question-Do You Want Previous Year Available? – Tori said that she would need to begin a new year on the WCCD Board hidden board meeting page on the website, and asked WCCD Board members if they wanted to have the previous year's information available. The WCCD Board agreed that since Tori maintained the past agenda documents on her hard drive, there was no need to have it available on the website. The WCCD Board did suggest having the signed minutes from the 2015 board meetings available on the website. Tori stated that she would put them under District Operations on the public site.

Length of Board Meeting Discussion– Tori asked for discussion on ideas to help reduce board meeting time. The WCCD Board felt that there were times that board meetings ran long, but wanted to make sure ample discussion continued where board members needed background information and understood the topics. The WCCD Board agreed to try to minimize side discussions to help move the meetings along.

- Outdoor Education Specialist Performance Review - Executive Session – Vance called an Executive Session meeting to order at 9:30 p.m. Tori reviewed the 90-day performance evaluation for Jenn Rasmussen that she had completed and discussed, with the WCCD Board. The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Susan made a motion to approve Jenn Rasmussen’s performance review. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Federal Register Notice-Sagebrush Focal Areas; Federal Register Notice-Wolf Livestock Demo Project; Big Horn Basin Dispatch 12012015; Wyoming Conservation Exchange Board Formation Notice; November NRCS Newsletter; WACD Wildlife Committee Meeting Follow-up; Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Program Update; WDA Comment Letter on EOS Permit Applications; NRCS November 16, 2015 Newsletter; Wildland Grazing Workshop Agenda & Flyer; Horse & Burro Support; Programs Supported in Ominous Bill; Nowood WID 11022015 Minutes

Dave moved to adjourn. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Date: January 2, 2016

Respectfully submitted by: Victoria Dietz, District Director

Dean Rice 1-18-16
CHAIRMAN DATE

David W. Sloner 1/18/16
SECRETARY/TREASURER DATE