

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, August 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Worland at the WCCD office in Worland. Members in attendance were; Dan Rice, Vance Lungren, Charley Orchard, and Cal Jones. Also in attendance was Victoria Dietz; WCCD Director, NRCS District Conservationist Laura Galloway, Grace Godfrey; Worland High School Ag teacher and seven students; Ricardo Martinez, Buck Butterfield, Cody Baumstarck, Ivan Perez, Elizabeth Martinez, Batt Barovatz, and Paysen Curtis, who had attended WyRED. In addition, landowners Betty Falxa and Lisa Kimsey attended the meeting to present their cost share application.

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

The board reviewed the July 17, 2015 board meeting minutes. Laura stated that under New Business, "Update Rural Cost Share Approval Letter", the NRCS form name is NRCS CPA5, instead of SPA15 in the second paragraph under the topic title. In addition, Cal asked that Tori correct the spelling of Susan Carrell under the Employee Reports topic title. Cal moved to accept the board meeting minutes as amended. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tori reported the following financial account balances: WCCD main checking account; -\$4,901.07 and Money Market account; \$205,244.65. The CD balance is \$16,405.82. The July bank statements for the main checking and money market accounts were reconciled by Dan Rice. Tori stated that there is a \$14,000.00 deposit showing up that she will need to ask an accountant to help her fix. Cal 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
7713	7339	Precision Analysis	55.00
7714	Electronic	Karen Fenton	1,606.36
7715	Electronic	Susan Carrell	12.42
7716	Electronic	Victoria Dietz	2,683.71
7717	Electronic	Security Bank	1,205.22
7718	7340	BlueCross BlueShield	1,354.86
7719	7341	R.T. Communications	88.74
7720	7342	Verizon Wireless	50.49

7721	7343	Daily News	857.00
7722	7344	Serlkay Printing	60.00
7723	7345	Electronic Data Solutions	3,278.00
7724	7346	Wyo. Retirement	927.38
7725	7347	WACD	9,855.00
7726	7348	Hanford's Sprinklers	315.00
7727	7349	Cardmember Service	4,154.66
7728	7350	Fiddleback Farms	8,400.23
7729	7351	South Flat Land & Livestock	19,187.80
7730	7352	WCDEA	75.00
7731	7353	Backyards Barnyards	135.00
7732	7354	Livestock Roundup	50.00
7733	7355	Paintrock Consulting	400.00

NRCS REPORT

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

- Help provided for WCCD
 - Field visit for Falxa was conducted (design work in progress)
 - Created Maps and gathered previous years allocations for NWQI – Watershed Plan
- SOIL CONSERVATIONIST POSITION – Worland: applications close August 18th, with interviews and selection to follow. Target start date is October 1st.
- EQIP 2015
 - We are still waiting on the Cultural approval for some of the 2015 contracts.
 - Batching Date for the 1st round of applications for FY2016 will be September 18th.
- AMA 2015
 - The 3rd Round of applications for AMA have been approved. All but 1 of the Windbreak/Shelterbelt projects has been signed by the participant and are waiting obligation. This brought an additional \$48,883 to Washakie County.
- CSP
 - We have 3 renewal CSP's that are being reviewed for approval right now. These will be obligated after the current ones expire.
- NWQI
 - We received an additional \$23,000 to fund 1 of our pending projects. We have not heard anything yet on the 2nd project.
 - Mary has informed us that information about the proposals for 2016 will come out in August. She sent this out to all NRCS offices to share with their districts.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) (Provided by Mary Schrader)

The NWQI was introduced in FY2013. This program is funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Each year since FY2013, a designated allocation has been given to Wyoming to treat water quality issues in an approved watershed.

The focus of this program is to address high-priority water resource concerns in small watersheds (12-digit HUC) with streams or water bodies in one or more of the following categories:

1. Impaired – A stream or water body documented to be impaired and identified on a State's 303(d) list of impaired waters as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
2. Threatened – A stream or water body with water quality data documenting an impairment, but does not have a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan and is not listed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters as designated by EPA.
3. Total Maximum Daily Loads – A stream or water body that has been on EPA's 303(d) list of impaired waters but may have been removed because there is a TMDL plan for implementation.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Susan Carrell and Karen Fentons reports were previously provided via email.

Tori gave the WCCD Board an overview and update of some of her activities over the past month, which included; the meeting she had coordinated for the Washakie County Commissioners with DEQ and the Ag Producers regarding crop burning, Outdoor Classroom grass plot failure and re-seeding plans, update on the information she obtained from Cathy Rosenthal regarding how WACD handles their cellular phone billing. Tori stated that she felt that WCCD should pay Verizon with a check and she would include it with her payment rather than WCCD reimbursing her. Tori reported that she had completed and submitted the award nomination for Jeri Trebelcock for the WACD Employee of the year award, gave a summary of the teleconference with the Board of Directors for the Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District regarding their quarterly meeting information. Charley asked Tori to find out more about Dee Hillberry's phased EA process he was now able to do through the BLM. Tori reported that she had completed and submitted the 2nd quarter 319 grant report. Tori reported that she and Karen had both purchased their new computers and she had hired Kristi Robison to help her transfer all of her files to the OneDrive Cloud and Kristi had lost all of her file. She stated that she had to bring in Casey Rice to help recover them from her backup drive, which had last backed up on July 31st and she had a weeks-worth of documents that would need to be redone as they have been developed after the July 31st backup.

BOARD REPORTS

Governor Talking Points-BLM RMP Related – Dan discussed talking points developed by Ryan Lance to help with preparation for a discussion with Governor Mead regarding the BLM RMP Consistency Review.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Washakie FFA - WyRED Activity Summary from Students-Grace Godfrey and her WyRED students thanked the WCCD board for their continued sponsorship to WyRED and each student presented their favorite part of WyRED and also tied their education at the event back to the practical application in a real life ranch management situations such as plant I.D., range site condition, degree of use, AUM stocking rate, and soils.

319 Applications Approved July Board Meeting – Tori stated that she had forgotten to obtain board member signatures on the 319 applications approved during the July board meeting. Tori passed around the applications, which were signed. Tori stated that she noticed that she had not yet updated the signature page to delete previous board member Kitsy Barnes and add new board member Dave Slover, which she would get done.

Nowater NWQI Application/Watershed Plan Update-Tori reported that she has not yet received the request for proposals, but had begun to gather information for the application. Tori reported that the Washakie Watersheds Steering Committee had met to begin development of the watershed plan for the Bighorn River-Horse Draw combined with the Nowater Creek-Wildcat Gulch. Tori said Karen Fenton was compiling all of the statistical information from Suitewater for the plan.

Nowood Watershed Improvement District (WID) Election Update-Tori provided an update of how the mail ballot election was progressing, that ballots had been mailed out on July 28th, provided the WCCD Board with an overview of how the polling place counting and canvassing would occur on August 18th, provided the WCCD Board with the minutes from the Nowood WID joint board teleconference meeting held on July 27th, and reminded them of the upcoming joint meeting to be held on August 20th at Manderson Town Hall at 7:00 p.m., if the referendum passed, to determine if the formation was practicable and feasible and would be created or not.

Sage Creek Land & Cattle - NRCS Certification Timeline-Tori reported that she had visited with Steve Snyder about the WCCD Board's approval to allow him to receive a full certification from NRCS for his project that he had failed to provide an NRCS design and photos for. Tori stated that Steve was appreciative and asked if he could wait on the NRCS certification until Beet harvest was completed, which the WCCD Board agreed to.

Annual Plan Review-Approval – Tori presented the finalized updated Annual Plan to the WCCD Board. Charley made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Plan. Cal seconded the motion. Motion carried. The WCCD Board signed the plan.

WACD Convention Rooms – Tori reminded the WCCD Board that she had reserved three rooms thus far for WACD convention attendance for Dan, Karen Fenton and herself, and asked if there would be any others attending. Vance stated that he planned to attend convention as well and would like a room reserved.

Conservation District 2nd Mill Levy Discussion – Dan reported that WACD would like a second discussion and provide their input on whether or not they were still in agreement to not support the 2nd mill levy legislation. Dan provided the WCCD board with information of several proposed changes to

the bill; to change the name of the bill to the Special Water Projects Funding Mill Levy, and to sunset the Mill Levy after a project is completed. After discussion was held, the WCCD Board still had concerns with a county wide mill levy that would only benefit a certain percentage of those taxed and the other main concern was that it may jeopardize future funding from other entities if a second mill levy isn't in place, to be asked to secure that 2nd mill levy before their funding could be tapped into. Charley made a motion to not support the perusal of a 2nd conservation district water mill levy. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan stated that he would contact Senator Geis before September 17th to let him know of the WCCD Board decision and would also contact WACD.

NEW BUSINESS

Rural Cost Share Applications - Funding Considerations/Ranking-Betty Falxa and Lisa Kimsey presented the application of Falxa Land Company for reservoir/pond dredging and spring developments in several areas of Betty's property. Dan suggested that some of the proposed work fell into the category of maintenance and asked Betty to rework the budget to take those types of items out. Betty and Lisa left the room to work on the updates to the application, then returned again to present their changes.

Laura Galloway presented an application on behalf of Galloway Ranch for a PV Solar system, in which she was asking for \$4,200 cost share on.

Several other applications to be ranked; Sage Creek Land & Livestock, Fairview Farms, Jesse Kysar, and Split Rock Land & Cattle had been presented by the applicants during previous WCCD board meetings.

The WCCD Board discussed taking a position on not considering cost share help on maintenance type projects. Vance made a motion to not approve cost share funding for maintenance type projects. Cal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD Board discussed placing a cap on cost share funding for electrical projects that didn't fall into a category of energy efficiency. Charley made a motion to allow up to \$5,000.00 for electrical projects that didn't fall into a category of energy efficient projects. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The WCCD Board proceeded to rank the cost share applications with the following results:

Cal made a motion to approve funding at \$5,000.00 for Sage Creek Land & Cattle-Hake Electrical for a Pivot, and approve funding at \$5,000.00 for Jesse Kysar – Electrical for Pivot. Vance seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fairview Farms South L2S, Mid Connie, Connie Pond, South Connie, North L2S – all of which were electrical for Pivots-The WCCD Board did not rank these projects as the applicant had presented six projects (including Sage Creek Land & Cattle's Hake Electrical for a Pivot) and had asked the applicant to prioritize and choose one to be considered.

Cal made a motion to approved funding at \$10,000 for Split Rock Land & Cattle - Buried Pipeline, and approve funding at \$10,000.00 for Falxa Land Company - Stockwater Ponds/Spring Developments. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vance made a motion to approved funding at \$4,200.00 for Galloway Ranch - PV Solar. Cal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Board Member-Susan Pennington- Cal Jones had previously emailed Tori and the WCCD Board to state that he would be resigning as he would be moving from Worland. The WCCD Board thanked Cal for his service and their appreciation. Tori reported that she had contacted Susan Pennington, a local school teacher, to ask of her interest in being a WCCD board member. Tori provided the WCCD board with Susan's bio and stated that Susan had agreed to fill Cal's unexpired term. Tori stated that she had explained to Susan and the Wyoming Board of Ag would still need to approve Susan's appointment and has submitted an application for that purpose. Tori reported that Susan was unable to attend the WCCD Board meeting due to a previously scheduled event.

Subdivision Review Letters Approval- Tori presented two different soils investigation letters she had written for proposed subdivisions for the Coutis Subdivision and the Barnett Simple Subdivision. Vance made a motion to approve both the Coutis Subdivision and Barnett Simple Subdivision soils investigation letters Tori had written. Cal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) Discussion-Tori provided correspondence she had received from WACD regarding DEQ's UAA model, the issues and concerns that have arisen with environmental groups misinformation on the process and intent, and an all-district teleconference scheduled for August 20th at 8:30 a.m. to help conservation districts understand all of those concerns and allow for questions. In addition, Dan stressed the importance of testimony at the upcoming Public Hearing on September 16th in Casper, by those who were involved in the UAA gathering of data for the groundtruthing of DEQ's model. Tori said she would plan to participate in the teleconference and would attend the hearing.

Education Specialist - Janet Heron- Tori reported that she, Cal, and Dave Slover had conducted interviews for the new Outdoor Education Specialist and had selected Janet Heron. Tori reported that Janet was unable to attend the WCCD board meeting as she was currently out of town, but as soon as her return, would be contacting Susan Carrell to help with the training.

Forest Service Steering Committee Tour – Tori provided the agenda and a map for the upcoming Big Horn Forest Steering Committee tour, which will be held on August 27th starting at 9:00 a.m. on the Tongue River Ranger District side of the Big Horn Mountains. Dan stated that he planned to attend.

Range School Host Consideration – Tori reported that she had been contacted by Blaine Horn, University of Wyoming Range Specialist regarding an inquiry to host a series of range workshops again. Tori provided the WCCD Board with the past brochures WCCD had used for 4 different range workshops and asked if there was interested again in hosting similar workshops. Tori stated that she had visited with Karen Fenton about it and Karen was willing to coordinate the hosting of the workshops. The WCCD Board agreed to host another series of range workshops. Tori stated that she have Karen work with the WCCD Board on specific topics desired.

Smart Procure Information Request - Response – Tori reported that she had received a request for public records on all purchases and expenditures since 2010 from SmartProcure. Tori stated that the company

wanted everything submitted electronically and Tori had explained to them that WCCD used a voucher with attached receipts when paying a bill and stated that she would have to un-staple receipts from each voucher and scan the information to put it in electronic format. Tori received an email back from SmartProcure stating that since we did not have the information they needed in electronic format, they asked that we close their request and consider it withdrawn.

Crop Burning Education-Brochure Idea – Tori reported that she had organized a meeting between DEQ, Worland Fire Dept., Coors Intermountain, and local Ag producers regarding crop burning, as was requested by Aaron Anderson, Washakie County Commissioner. Tori stated that there had been recent complaints by residents about the smoke from the burning fields after Barley harvest and the meeting was to organize a group of Ag producers to try to education and also try to schedule their burning so as to spread the burning locations and days out. Tori stated that Karen Fenton had attended the meeting and Tori had given Karen the go ahead to offer WCCD’s assistance with outreach. Tori asked the WCCD Board for their approval for the development of a brochure that would outline regulations, list reasons why the farmers burn and advantages to burning the residue. Tori added that Vanny Lungren, local Ag producer had outlined some key points for consideration. Cal requested that the brochure included that the DEQ had verified that no regulations had been violated and air quality standards had not been exceeded, and to ensure it does a good job of outlining “how does burning of cropland affect me” such as less use of chemical, less tillage—less dust. The WCCD Board agreed to allow Tori to move forward on a draft brochure and to involve Caitlyn Youngquist, University of Wyoming Extension in the publication. The WCCD Board agreed to review a draft before final decision was made to move forward with the printing. Tori stated that she would ask for Karen’s assistance as well.

Local Government Teleconference-RMP Consistency Review – Tori stated that she had participated in a teleconference with other Big Horn Basin local governments, ERG, and the Governor’s Office today. Tori gave a summary of the teleconference discussions and stated that she had asked ERG if they were going to provide the consistency review using WCCD’s Natural Resource Land Use Plan or if WCCD would need to provide the review. Tori stated that Gregory Kennett with ERG had reported that they had brought out the main points of WCCD’s plan to include in their comments.

Area III Meeting - Thermopolis September 4 – Tori provided the agenda, invitation from Hot Springs Conservation District, and the 2014 minutes, for the upcoming Area III meeting which will be held on September 4th at the Big Horn Federal Bank in Thermopolis. Tori stated that she would not be in attendance, but Karen Fenton had planned to go. Tori asked if any board members would be going and Dan and Vance stated that they would. Tori said Karen would probably leave the office by 8:00 a.m. to go to the meeting if any board members wanted to ride with her.

Program Assistant Performance Review Overview - Executive Session – Dan called an executive session to order at 10:28 p.m. to discuss an employee’s performance review and take action. The executive session was adjourned at 10:32 p.m. The action taken during the executive session was the approval of an employee’s performance review conducted by Tori Dietz.

CORRESPONDENCE

WACD What’s Up; UAA_DEQ letter to EPA; UAA_EPA letter to DEQ; Governor Announces Energy Strategy Meeting; NACD Newsletter; NRCS Newsletter; Bighorn Basin Dispatch; Western Governors

Sage Grouse Population Increase; SageGrouse Predator Project Report; EPA Proposed Pesticide Rules;
4-H Thank You Cards

Cal moved to adjourn. Charley seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at
10:32 p.m.

Date: September 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted by: Victoria Dietz, District Director

Dean Rice 10-7-15
CHAIRMAN DATE

W. W. Love 10/4/15
SECRETARY/TREASURER DATE