Laramie County Conservation District
1923 Whitney Road Cheyenne, WY 82007

LCCD Public Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 09/09, 2025   Time: 5:30 pm   Location: District Office

Attendance:

Supervisors	District Staff	NRCS	Guest
Epler (x)		Dan	
Crowder (x)		Burton	Patty Wells
Cherek (x)	Kevin Wells		
Berry (x)	Chris Vercelli		
Sanchez (x)			FSA

CALL TO ORDER:
5:40 PM MST

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Secretary presented the minutes of the June meeting. Approval of previous board meeting(s) minutes

Scott Cherek made a motion to approve the minutes; Jay Berry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

2) NEW BUSINESS ACTIONS - None

3) SUPERVISOR OVERSIGHT REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: The monthly financial report presented by the Treasurer has been received and filed. (Chair so states). No motion of approval is necessary or proper. – Ann Sanchez presented the report. No concerns were stated.

Water: Casey, Chair – Pole Mountain is dry and feed non-existent. Cattle moved off range

Secretary (Scott) – Nothing to report.

Wildlife/Range (Jason) – Nothing to report.

FSA – Lori Meier – Not Present. Casey presented the report. No update on Farm Bill programs

Trees – (Jay) Dale stopped by to see Jay. Jay felt we could have a more solutions-based approach when trees are stressed, providing better education to constituents and customers.

4) SUPERVISOR OVERSIGHT REPORTS (con't)

Ann (Administration) – Laramie County Appointed Board Training – LCCC

Notes/Feedback from Training:

- **Investment Policy** – Ann Sanchez and Jay Berry suggested LCCD investigate having an investment policy. LCCD can invest their funds in state-approved investment vehicles with potential to provide capital appreciation on our current cash balance.
  - Scott Cherek recommended we investigate the opportunity and learn more about how we can best utilize and grow existing capital currently in non-interest bearing or appreciable assets.
- **Grant Writing** – Jay Berry, through the Board Training, shared that Grants can create an investment of district resources. A suggestion was made that before grants are pursued, they should be agreed upon by the Board.
- **Legal** – Per Ann Sanchez, the Laramie County Attorney expressed his availability to assist in providing a legal opinion on issues relating to the organizations in attendance.

NRCS – (Dan Burton) – Has certified a Wildlife Friendly Fence in east County, some stock tanks, and a handful of other small projects.

The topic of cheatgrass was discussed. Dan described success stories from NE Wyoming on the importance of cheatgrass containment to wildlife, fire prevention/mitigation and improvements experienced in grazing productivity.

Dan shared photos from the Flat Rock Fire contrasting areas where cheatgrass was prevalent and areas containing a healthy ecosystem of native plants. The areas with native, small islands treated with Rejuvra, did not experience fire damage. The areas with cheatgrass were burned to the ground, including the sagebrush.

Dan shared the NRCS 75% cost-share model available to many landowners for treating cheatgrass with Rejuvra.

Jay Berry stated he's treated some of his property for cheatgrass with Rejuvra and it was effective. Jay noted that after spraying, he was left with bare dirt that's taken a couple seasons to regenerate with native. Jay said the slow recovery might be due to our ongoing drought situation.

5) PROJECT STATUS

Kevin Wells

- Presented color-coded chart displaying progress by project and provided explanation of how to interpret project status and in certain cases project funding.
- NPIP - - Planted on leech fields.
- WHIP Projects Update Provided

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS/GENERAL ORDER*:* "Postponed Definitely" motions,

- **Area II Meeting Hosted by LCCD, Sept-17th, 2025.**
  - Casey encouraged board members to attend.
  - WACD Seeking delegates to the state.
- Solar Panels –
  - Kevin Wells presented three quotes from solar contractors in WY and CO
  - Kevin stated utility expenses have been increasing.
  - Scott Cherek suggested we invite one or more of the contractors to an upcoming meeting to present the options, roof vs. ground mount, capacity, etc. to the full Board. Casey and Kevin agreed.
- Pine Bluffs Feed & Grain – Corral: Cost – $27K+ (Does not include Head Catch

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/GENERAL ORDER *(Cou't)*

  - Motion made by Scott Cherek to purchase corral.
    - Motion seconded by Jay Berry
  - Discussion of pros and cons of owning renting corral took place.
    - Ann Sanchez suggested we should continue to look at different options to potentially find a corral configuration that meets all our needs and does not require modifications.
    - Casey Epler expressed concern that if modifications are made to corral, the warranty could potentially be voided.
    - Jason Crowder asked if the purchase of a corral was consistent with the mission of LCCD. Jason stated that projects, such as working to improve/enhance CRP, specifically tracts impacted by smooth brome monoculture, are more consistent with LCCD's mission.
    - Jay Berry felt., certain cases, a corral does meet the standard of the mission and goals of LCCD.
  - Scott Cherek made a motion to purchase a corral, cost not to exceed $35K, including necessary modifications.
  - Vote – Scott Cherek and Jay Berry (Yes), Ann Sanchez and Jason Crowder (No), Casey Epler chose to abstain from voting on this issue.
  - Vote tied – Motion not approved
- State Convention – 11/18-11/21/25.
  - Scott Cherek said he may attend for 1-2 days based on status of hunting trip in the Gillette area.

7) NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS:

- Rex – Kevin provided update on Rex's status.
    - Rex is making great progress through regular PT and other therapy. Overall, an incredibly positive outlook compared to where things stood a couple of weeks ago.
- Industrial Siting Letter from Wyoming DEQ: RE: Chugwater Energy Project (Note: Item moved by Secretary from "Unfinished to "New" Business-Action Items")
    - Kevin presented letter from DEQ discussing impacts of proposed wind project located East of Chugwater and I-25 on private and state land in Platte County
    - Letter offered opportunity to become a party to permit proceedings.
    - MOU deadline of 9/24 regarding impact assistance recommendations and 10/31/25 Deadline "Last Day to become a party."
    - Scott Cherek spoke in support of LCCD providing impact assistance recommendations, especially as they relate to water demands and weed mitigation.
    - Casey Epler stated that he did not feel that LCCD needed to provide impact assistance. Cherek disagreed, saying that LCCD feedback could be invaluable in assuring that infrastructure is positioned in the best possible location to ensure minimal impact on habitat and wildlife.
    - Casey Epler stated that if the LCCD is providing impact assistance recommendations for Industrial siting on wind projects, LCCD should be proactive in doing the same when the opportunity is available on subdivisions and other commercial development.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS (cou't)

- - Cherek said LCCD should have a consistent position statement regarding the impact of industrial wind farms. Kevin Wells said our position has existed since our impact assistance was requested in 2018 or 2019 for the Belvoir Wind Project.
    - The board agreed to table the discussion for this meeting and resume at our October Board meeting.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion as stated: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Name of maker, main motion: Ann Sanchez, Seconded: Scott Cherek

Passed Unanimously

Time of Adjournment: 8:15 PM MST

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct-14th , @ 5:30PM.

Casey F Epler

Casey Epler, Chair

Scott Cherek, Secretary

(All board meetings are audio recorded)