



LCCD Public Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Laramie County Conservation District Office

DATE: August 20, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

Recorded by: Secretary Scott Cherek

In Attendance:

Supervisors Casey Epler, Scott Cherek, Ann Sanchez, Jay Berry.

LCCD Staff: Jeff Geyer, Chris Vercelli, John Watson, Rachel Crowther, Erin Friel

Guests: NRCS – Ali Beltran, Laramie Rivers Conservation District – Katie Wynne, District Mgr.

Monthly public meeting commenced at 6:00 PM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Hilltop Bank

Supervisor Cherek made a motion to approve making a bank change and designated Hilltop bank to provide checking accounts, credit card and payroll services for LCCD. Supervisor Sanchez 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT STATUS – Full reports and updates provided by full staff. All projects continue to be on schedule.

SUPERVISOR OVERSIGHT REPORTS

- **Treasurer** Ann Sanchez – Beginning Checking Account balance - \$1,963,068.69, Total Income received in July – 70,281.66, Total expenses - \$125,031.38. Total cash on hand on 7/31/26 is \$3,376,748.13
- **Secretary** Supervisor Cherek – Nothing to report
- **Wildlife/Range/Special Committee:** Supervisor Crowder – Nothing to report
- **Water:** Supervisor Epler - No updates.
- **Trees:** Supervisor Berry – No updates.
- **NRCS:** Ali Beltran – Future uncertainty due to budget cuts. More to come.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM July 2026 MEETING

Supervisor Berry moved to approve the minutes. Supervisor Ann Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Action Agenda 1 – Consideration of Tree Coordinator Position Candidate**
Supervisor Cherek made a motion to approve Chris Vercelli promotion to Tree Coordinator Position at Step level allocated for position, consistent with current peer staff salaries at LCCD. Supervisor Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Action Agenda 2 – Consideration of Soil Program Cost Share**
After presentation from Rachel Crowther, Supervisor Sanchez made a motion to approve the Soil Program Cost Share Program. Supervisor Cherek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Action Agenda 3 – Consideration of the Center for Pollinator Conservation Grant**
After presentation from Jeff Geyer, Jay Berry made a motion to approve check for \$16,000 as down payment to manufacturer to begin manufacture of native seed harvester. Supervisor Cherek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: Expected delivery date of Native Seed Harvester is March 2027, with additional payment of \$16,000 due at time of delivery.

- **Action Agenda 4 – Due to shortage of staff to approve emergency CRP grazing plans,**
Supervisor Berry authorized on behalf of two Laramie County landowners. Full Board consensus provided by Supervisors Cherek, Crowder, Sanchez and Epler approving action by Supervisor Berry.

DISCUSSION: Information/Unfinished Business

- **Discussion Agenda Item I – Cheatgrass Mitigation on Curt Gowdy State Park Surrounding Landowners**
 - John Watson gave an update on cheatgrass in Curt Gowdy and surrounding properties. John is working with a landowner to begin applying Rejuvra and Plateau on a 100-acre parcel directly adjacent (west) of Curt Gowdy. John has been looking into cost-share and informed us that NRCS (25%) cost-share may not be available for this round of spraying.
 - It was determined the worst-case scenario shortfall for spraying parcel would be \$10,000 expenditure. The Board approved receptive to offsetting the 20-25% shortfall but did not act at this time until more information was available.

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ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Cherek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Supervisor Berry. Motion passed unanimously

Time of Adjournment: 7:50 PM MST

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026 @ 6:00 PM.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowder to hold an executive session following closure of the monthly public board meeting. Supervisor Cherek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously



Jason Crowder, Chair

Scott Cherek, Secretary