

Monte Lerwick

Why are you interested in becoming a board member?

Being a member of the Laramie County Conservation District board is an opportunity to give back to an organization that has helped our family farm/ranch in the past. LCCD is a critically important conservation organization funded by the fine residents of Laramie County. I grew up in Eastern Laramie County as the fourth generation on a working farm/ranch. My wife Megan and I are living and raising our family here in Laramie County. Laramie County is also the headquarters of our farm/ranch business. As a graduate from the University of Wyoming with a BS in Civil Engineering, I've developed a love for small water projects done well. As an alumni of the Wyoming LEADs program, I was encouraged to support and get involved with organizations that are important to our way of life. As a graduate of the Ranching For Profit school and six year alumni of the Executive Link Program, I've been taught to embrace effective boardroom processes that help move any organization forward towards a shared Mission and Vision. I look forward to working with a group of fellow residents to help accomplish the critical conservation work of the Laramie County Conservation District.

Why are you interested in Conservation?

We are involved in a lot of conservation projects on our Farm/Ranch. We are planting tree rows, establishing pollinator strips, moving crop ground back to perennials, integrating livestock on crop land, implementing prescribed grazing plans, increasing soil organic matter, seeding cover crops, using remote sensing to watch ground moisture on irrigated ground, using remote sensing to monitor our livestock water systems, using cow collars to change our graze patterns, planting tree rows, and growing more wildlife habitat. We are doing this because it makes our little corner of the world a better place for our family, our community, and Laramie County residents. Our farm/ranch has acres enrolled in Walk-In areas for hunters and works with the Wyoming Game and Fish to plant pheasants for public hunting. We have a mission to "create an environment where families can thrive." I personally believe that conservation done well, helps us be good at this.

Something that you would like your voters to know!

I believe that it's impossible for an organization to effectively serve its employees and owners unless all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the Mission and Vision. It looks like a good effort has been made to lay out a clear and compelling Mission and Vision and it is posted on the LCCCD official website. If I'm elected as a board member, I'll ensure the Mission and Vision are aligned with the residents of Laramie County and the entire LCCD organization clearly understands it and is aligned with it. This is a simple and small step that will have a far-reaching impact on the effectiveness of the LCCD.