LCCD Public Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Laramie County Conservation District Office
DATE: April 9, 2026, 2026
TIME: 6:00 PM

In Attendance: Casey Epler, Jason Crowder, Ann Sanchez, Kevin Wells
Staff Present: Kevin Wells, Kathy Cooney, Jeff Geyer, Dale Beranek, Chris NRCS - Rusty

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PROJECT STATUS - Kevin Wells

- Director Kevin Wells reported that mop up is ongoing at the Mariah Reservoir project.
- Kevin noted there are new grant dollars soon to be available for future upgrades.
- verified Supervisors had a copy of Status Reports and offered Supervisors to look at those and ask questions.
- **Subdivision Review Planning**
  - Kevin discussed the eight hundred modular man camp housing for the Tallgrass project. The project is still going through approval for water and related issues.
  - Kevin discussed an application for commercial zoning in the Burns area. He is planning to investigate the project further to find out more details.
  - Chairman Jason Crowder disclosed that he is doing consulting for Chalk Gloss Energy. They are planning wind and solar projects in Northern Colorado.

Bit of WYO Letters

- Kevin Wells stated that LCCD received letters from Bit of WYO legal counsel stated that we were not in compliance with the easement on the property. The LCCD received a second letter on 03/26/26 stating we are complying with the easement.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Supervisor Ann Sanchez

Supervisor Sanchez provided the Financial Report.

- Ann Sanchez referenced the snapshot of the financials for review. Ann provided a year-over-year comparison. Ann noted that the mill levy receipts are down 27% vs. 2025.
- The March income statement showed a Net Loss of $17,444.49
- Ann indicated a beginning checking balance of $1,775,461.34. Income received was $48604.60 and total expenses of $66,049.09. Ending Checking balance was $1,758,016.85. Total cash on hand $3,131,852.43.

SUPERVISOR OVERSIGHT REPORTS

- **Water** – Vice-Chairman Epler: Casey Epler discussed a new proposed well in the Hillsdale area. Epler noted that the original goal of 75 GPM was to 25 GPM following the owner's decision to install a lower capacity well for financial reasons.
- **Wildlife Range** – Supervisor Jason Crowder: Nothing to report.
- **Trees:** Supervisor Jay Berry: Not in attendance
- **Secretary:** Nothing to Report
- **NRCS**
    - Rusty noted that there were 21 Applications submitted this Spring and he projects no more than two of those applications will be approved.
    - Laramie County went from D3 to D4 as of 4/9/26, making CRP contracts eligible for grazing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

Scott Cherek moved to approve the minutes. Ann Sanchez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of New Hire Selection & Salaries

- **Resource Position:**
    - Hire: Ann Sanchez made a motion to hire Rachel Crowder for Resource Position. Scott Cherek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
    - Salary: Casey Epler made a motion to hire Resource Position at Step 3. Ann Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Outreach Coordinator:**
    - Hire: Scott Cherek made a motion to hire Hannah Adams for Outreach Coordinator. Casey Epler Seconded the motion.
    - Salary: Casey Epler made a motion to hire Outreach Coordinator at Step 3. Cherek Seconded. Motion Passed Unanimously.
- **Wildlife Range Position:**
    - Hire: Cherek made a motion to offer Wildlife Range Position to John Watson. Ann Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
    - Salary: Epler made a motion to hire Wildlife Range Position at Step 3. Cherek Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Internship:**
    - Epler made a motion to hire Brian Covert for internship at $21/hr. Cherek seconded. Motion passed unanimously

OTHER BUSINESS:

Conservation Awards Dinner: Director Wells reported that we have acquired the Riata River Ranch for April 17th. Dinner will be catered for $32/plate to run from 6-9 PM.

Budget: Wells said that the DRAFT budget will need approval in the May Meeting.

Grant: Wells said that the LCCD is expecting a grant totaling approximately $50,000 for seed propagation with local landowners. Jeff Geier will present details during the May meeting.

Outreach Coordinator: The Board will need to add a line item to the budget to account for the new Outreach Coordinator position during the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ann Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Cherek. Motion passed unanimously.

Time of Adjournment: 7:58 PM MST

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 PM.

Jason Crowder, Chair

Scott Cherek, Secretary

(All board meetings are audio recorded)