

Laramie County Conservation District

11221 U.S. Hwy. 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 20th, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Attendance

Supervisors Present: Tom Farrell, Chairman; Kevin Wells, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; Ann Sanchez, Secretary (virtually); Jay Berry, Member; Jeremy Manley, Member.

District Employees Present: Shaun Kirkwood, Kathy Cooney, Paul Sandler, Rex Lockman.

NRCS Employees Present: Mason Peebles

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 4:12 p.m. Kevin called the board meeting to order.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING- July 16, 2020

Jay moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting;
Jeremy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT- Profit and Loss Statement – (July 2020) Shaun

Shaun presented the Treasurer's Report and the Board recommended to submit it for audit.

4. PROGRAM REPORTS –

–Education (Paul)

Paul stated the stream trailer is 99% done. He just needs rocks. Paul stated the fall newsletter is under production, and the District found out there is a SE WY Extra publication that could reach more people in addition to the WY Tribune & the Pine Bluffs Post that the District currently uses to insert the newsletter.

Paul stated he has assisted with the voter mailing, and completed his UW classes online. He has submitted a receipt for reimbursement of the courses to WY Ag in the Classroom.

Jay asked about the frequency of trips to the Natural Area 1-2 times per week to pick up pet waste. Paul stated he is also watering trees while there.

Jeremy stated School District #2 is in session and how successful Paul has been presenting in those schools. Paul stated he has gone to the Carpenter Elementary in the past.

Kevin asked about the video camera purchase to use for presenting lessons. Paul stated he has not purchased a camera yet.

-Wildlife & Range (Kevin, Rex)

Rex stated since he was unable to attend last month's board meeting, he wanted to report on the guzzlers the Board had asked about. Rex stated he has a spreadsheet with locations. Guzzlers were installed between 1999 & 2005 with 29 on land owner's property, with an agreement (MOU) with WY Game & Fish. The originals had plastic gutters and they broke. LCCD replaced them with metal gutters. The tanks are fiberglass and the cost of them has been prohibitive to replace them. Rex stated some of the older gutters are in CRP, and if some of the land is coming out of CRP, the landowner may need to fence them off.

The Board asked how effective the guzzlers were. Rex stated he would talk to WY Game & Fish, and Kevin noted they may need trail cameras.

Kevin asked Rex about the cheat grass spraying on Curt Gowdy. Rex stated it was supposed to be done Monday, August 17th, but has now been postponed to the end of September.

Jay asked about the Forest Service grant. Rex stated it is to reimburse the District for his time and mileage to Pole Mountain and any supplies. Jay asked about Rex's work on the Lorenz Ranch. Rex stated it began about 8 years ago with the BLM and Rex acting as the liaison when there was an issue with a lessee.

- Water (Tom)

Tom stated he had a contract to sign for Jeff, and that the library project is looking good. Shaun stated the Gutter Bin Contest is going on, but Jeff is disappointed in the number of entries thus far, but it still has another 10 days to go.

- Trees (Jeremy)

Shaun stated Dale is building fence at the Natural Area, with a few Living Snow Fence things to do. One being only two sites to fence, and new contracts to secure.

Shaun stated Clark is going to host another Pruning Class on September 25th. Clark has also been doing a lot of tree calls on needle miner, and Clark is also working on a Community Enhancement Project with the town of Pine Bluffs. Most of the spruce trees in the Pine Bluffs cemetery are dead.

Jeremy stated there is a Trail Blazers Adult Learning Program through the University of WY to assist adults ages 25-64 with a grant of \$2,500.00 per semester for WY residents. Qualifications are online.

- Administration (Jay, Shaun, & Kathy)

Jay stated everything is running smoothly and that all the plantings have been paid for 2020.

Shaun didn't have anything to add, nor did Kathy.

-NRCS (Mason Peebles)

Mason stated all obligations are complete with 15 contracts. Of those are an assortment of projects, one being tree plantings. 45 contracts renewals. Weeds are an issue. NRCS is now requiring landowners to address the weeds and fix the issue or they will lose funding.

Mason also stated the Chief of NRCS has resigned.

Jay asked Mason about the cost to mitigate smooth brome for \$50,000.00 for a section of ground. Mason currently they are spraying it with roundup, but the brome is greening up. Mason said it is very expensive.

Kevin asked about the status on the office doors still being locked. Mason said they are in Phase 3 now, and does not know when it will change. Mason stated his staff is able to work from home other than meeting with a land owner.

Jay asked about getting a new well if engineering has not approved it. Tom asked how engineering is going. Mason stated the engineer that was in Torrington has left, and Mason has put in a request to have an engineer stationed in Cheyenne. Currently plans are not getting back to NRCS, and Mason has contacted his boss.

Mason also stated NRCS is not in emergency grazing yet.

Conservation Plans:

- ② (1) 16 CRP Grazing plans
- ② (2) 1 CRP haying/grazing plan
- ② (3) 4 CRP haying plans
- ② (4) 1 CRP ownership change plan

Kevin moved to approve the listed Conservation Plans.

Jay seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion Items:

- 5. Purchase of tabbing machine** - purchase of machine that will put tabs on mailings. Mailings are to become an annual task, so machine will cut down on time to adhere tape to seal mailings. Purchase price \$2427.31. Purchase will come from office equipment line item.

Kevin moved to approve the Long Range Plan for 2020-2024.

Jay seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

- 6. Annual Plan of Work 2020/2021-** questions and comments. Adjustments to be made?

Tom stated he would like to see a new picture on the cover. Much discussion was held regarding each program, and who was assigned to a task or job. Shaun will make the changes and get it back to the Board for final approval.

7. Area II meeting, Platte County Resource District - Area II meeting, Friday, September 25, 2020 Attendees?

Shaun stated the meeting will be held from 9-4 pm and asked who would like to attend. The deadline to RSVP is September 4th.

Tom asked about WACD State Convention. Shaun stated it is to be held in Torrington from Nov. 17-20, and was supposed to hear on Wednesday if the WACD Board had decided if they would hold convention this year. That information has not been released yet.

8. Annual awards banquet - yes or no because of Covid-19 concerns?

Shaun asked how the Board felt about hosting an awards banquet this year. Tom stated he would be in favor of it. Kevin suggested combining it with the Legislative function. Jay stated he didn't have an opinion. Kevin then stated to move forward and let individuals decide if they wished to attend or not. Shaun suggested still giving awards, but not hosting a banquet.

Kathy will contact Little Bear in to ask about a deposit if the function is later canceled and to inquire about available dates. Kathy will update the Board at the September Board meeting.

9. Building update - updated design. Distributed at meeting.

Shaun went over the changes from Plan One considered the building plans. There has been no feedback from Plan One regarding the shop.

Shaun stated there is not, nor will there be, a commitment from NRCS/FSA to move to the new location. The District would need to go to bid when the current building lease expires for FSA.

Jeremy asked for an executive session at 6:20 pm.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:35 pm.

Laramie County Conservation District Supervisor/staff information

10. Rooted in Cheyenne - appreciation letter from Rooted in Cheyenne.

The District received a thank you letter from Rooted in Cheyenne for the District's continued support.

11. Other Business-

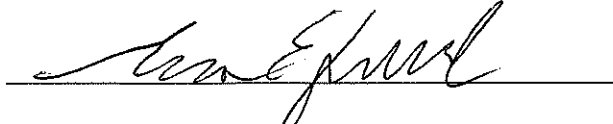
Tom suggested Jennifer Wolfe, a volunteer, as a District Award recipient.

The Report to Voters flier was discussed. It is nearing completion, the new folding machine is not working after a day, and is in the process of being returned. Shaun stated signs will be going out soon. Jeremy suggested putting something in the Audubon & Master Gardner's newsletters.


Tom suggested an ad on NPR. Jeremy also suggested the final rodeo at Archer will be this coming weekend as a means to get information out to the public.

12. Adjournment-Tom

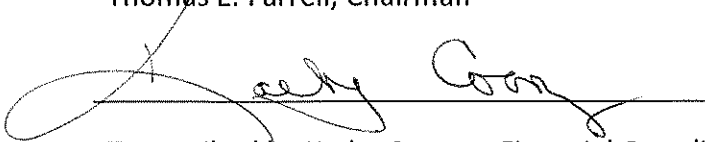
Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.



Thomas E. Farrell, Chairman



Ann Sanchez, Secretary



Transcribed by Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator