

Laramie County Conservation District

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

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 18th, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Attendance

Supervisors Present: Tom Farrell, Chairman; Ann Sanchez, Vice Chairman; Kevin Wells, Treasurer; Secretary; Jay Berry, Secretary, Casey Epler, Member.

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

NRCS Employees Present: Mason Peebles (via GoToMeeting)

Past Board Supervisor: Jeremy Manley

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING- Jan. 21, 2021

Tom made one correction. Under Program Reports-Administration, Tom stated he would also check into a 3rd party for a cost analysis.

Kevin moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with Tom's correction;
Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT- Profit and Loss Statement – (Jan. 2021) Shaun

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

4. PROGRAM REPORTS –

–Education (Ann, Paul)

Paul stated he has scheduled classes at South & East High Schools the next four weeks, and has given out the Furs & Skulls trunk to a home school teacher.

Paul also stated he had listened to NACD Convention presentations.

Kevin asked Paul about doing virtual presentations via Zoom. Paul stated he has one scheduled for next week.

Ann stated she saw the District would be at the Farm Show this coming weekend. Shaun stated Clark will be giving a presentation on Saturday, but that the District will not have a booth there because of short notice and lack of information in time.

Shaun stated the District will have a booth at the Laramie County Sportman's Expo at Archer on March 26-28, and will have a booth at the Home & Garden Show April 9-11.

-Wildlife & Range (Kevin, Rex)

Rex stated he has been working on small water projects and grant reporting.

Kevin discussed the local FFA Creed contest, and asked the District to reach out to local chapters and 4-H clubs about presentations, taking the stream trailer to 4-H clubs to inform the youth about conservation.

Tom noted the letter from Julie Caulkins thanking the District for assisting with judging at the All City Science Fair.

- Water (Tom)

Tom stated he had not talked to Jeff. Jay stated Jeff has been working hard on small water projects.

- Trees (Casey)

Casey stated he is learning. Casey state he had received a report from Clark. Shaun stated windbreak designs are pretty much done for this year as trees are limited. Designs are being taken for next year. There are 90+ plantings this year totaling 27 miles. Two planting crews have been discussed.

Shaun also stated Dale and Clark are putting living snow fences on GIS. Jordan Evans of LCGISC has helped them learn how to map locations.

- Administration (Jay, Shaun, & Kathy)

Kathy asked Casey if he had had a chance to go to WY Bank & Trust to sign a signature card. Casey stated he had not.

Shaun stated he had been working on the Employee Policy Manual, and staff will review it on March 1, following which it will be given to the Board, then be sent to an attorney.

Shaun also stated a meeting with Plan 1 will be set up soon.

Jay stated he didn't have anything to add.

-NRCS (Mason Peebles)

Mason updated the District on staffing for NRCS saying an offer had been made to an applicant from Texas. That person had accepted and should be in Cheyenne in 1-2 months. NRCS is interviewing for an engineer position as well.

Mason stated a Local Work Group meeting is coming up, but that it will be joint meeting with Platte and Goshen Counties. April has been set as a tentative date. Mason stated they are trying to get a trained moderator to assist with the meeting to guide toward conservation in the county. Mason stated he would have more information at the March Board meeting.

Mason stated NRCS has \$900,000.00 to obligate, which is 55% less than what was received in 2020. Mason stated NRCS is dealing with expiring CRP, and working on large cheatgrass spraying projects. NRCS also has several large tree plantings. CRP applications are still open. Changes to make the program better have been discussed, but no specific information is available.

Mason stated large grass plantings are planned on smooth brome. NRCS's plan is to hit them with chemical in the spring.

Jay asked what the current CRP rate was for Laramie County. Mason stated \$26.00 per acre.

Conservation Plans:

- 🔊 (1) Amended CRP due to name change

Kevin moved to approve the listed Conservation Plans.

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion Items:

5. LCCD salaries-clarification of which agencies to compare with LCCD salaries?

Shaun asked for clarification on what agencies the Board would like to compare LCCD to. City, County, and State employees were expressed. The last study was done in 2013 by the previous manager. Jay would like clarification on where the money is being spent.

Tom presented a proposal from Personal Financial Solutions, Inc., for a cost of \$2,000.00 to compare the above entities benefits. Shaun stated the District had contacted Rob Dickerson, auditor, for suggestion on who to contact for similar wage comparisons. Rob responded that LCCC-WY Center for Business & Economic Analysis provides data for Laramie County on wages by industry, mean wages and compensation, payroll by industry free of charge.

After some discussion, Jay suggested using both avenues to gather information. Jay asked to have an executive session following the adjournment of this meeting.

Shaun asked Tom to abstain from voting since he had supplied the proposal from Personal Financial Solutions. Tom stated he could not vote unless there was a tie.

Kevin moved to approve Personal Financial Solutions & LCCC not to exceed \$2,000.00 to compare with LCCD salaries.

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Consent Agenda:

6. WDA lab funds-review of lab funding for 2021/22 and if funds are needed?

Shaun stated the WDA form had been signed, but needed to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Jay moved to approve the WDA Lab Funds totaling \$3882/Biennium.

Casey seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Other Business-plaque presentation to Jeremy Manley for service to Laramie County and conservation.

Tom presented Jeremy Manley with a plaque in appreciation for his service as a past Board of Supervisor.

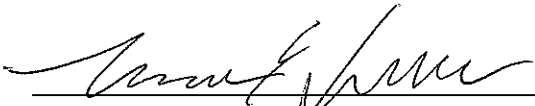
COVID vaccinations were also discussed. Tom stated he would put Shaun down as a contact if the hospital has extra doses available.

Ann moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss salaries and benefits.

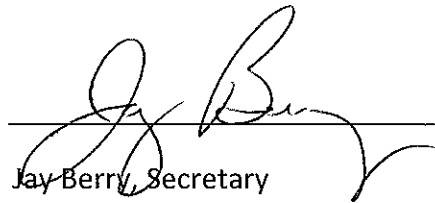
Kevin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Adjournment-Tom

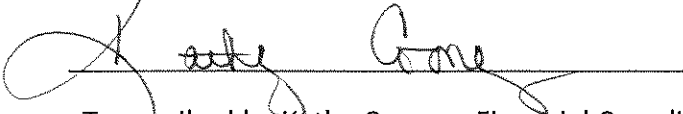
Tom adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.



Thomas E. Farrell, Chairman



Jay Berry, Secretary



Transcribed by Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator