

Laramie County Conservation District

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

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, July 16th, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Attendance

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

District Employees Present: Shaun Kirkwood, Kathy Cooney, Dale Beranek, Clark Young, Jeff Geyer, Paul Sandler.

FSA Employee Present: Robin Hudson

Laramie County Commissioner: Brian Lovett

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 4:15 p.m. Kevin called the board meeting to order.

2. FSA (Robin Hudson)

Robin stated today was the first day of a Haying & Grazing program. So far, Farm Service Agency has 10 contract applications for the program. Two are for haying and eight are for grazing for a total of 1,075 acres. Four more contract applications were received this morning.

Drought conditions exist, and an emergency authorization began today. A D2 is considered severe drought by utilizing the U.S. Drought Monitor. Laramie County is not at that stage yet.

FSA is also offering the CFAP program for the Corona Virus assistance.

3. BUDGET HEARING (Public Hearing) District's FY '20-'21 Budget

At 4:23 p.m. Kevin closed the regular board meeting opened the Budget Hearing. Shaun presented the Income & Expenses for the Budget for FY '20-'21.

With no further discussion,

Jay moved to approve the budget as presented;

Jeremy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

At 4:36 p.m. Kevin closed the Budget Hearing and opened the Board meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING- June 18, 2020

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

5. TREASURER'S REPORT- Profit and Loss Statement – (June 2020) & Quarterly Budget Report (July 2019-June 2020) Shaun

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

6. PROGRAM REPORTS –

–Education (Ann, Paul)

Paul stated he had taught at the Business Park Natural Area to the BEAST Foundation and IA. Approximately 30 children were involved. Paul has also been in contact with the Air Force Base, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, he is not allowed on base.

Paul stated the stream trailer is nearing completion, and that he is 2/3 through with his courses with UW. 19 quail were released the end of June. Paul stated he has not seen any on his trips to the Natural Area to water trees and pick up pet waste.

Ann stated she has helped neighbors with cover crops to help reduce water use.

-Wildlife & Range (Kevin)

Jeremy stated he had seen a buck hit on the interstate, and a doe has been seen near the railroad tracks at the Natural Area.

Jay asked about the guzzlers and if the District saw wildlife use them. Shaun stated no maintenance is being done on them. The Muley Fanatics tree planting is being maintained for three years through contractual agreement, and also because it is on state land, whereas others are on private land.

Kevin asked for a GIS location report to be presented at the next Board meeting. Shaun estimated there are 20 guzzlers throughout Laramie County.

- Water (Jeff)

Jeff stated he had been down to Road 207 to water twice so far since the planting was done. Jeff stated a drip would be helpful there, and is considering mulching the trees to help with moisture. Jeff stated the junipers, ponderosa pine, chokecherry are all doing well.

Jeff stated he will be working at the library on Friday pulling out cottonwood volunteers. Kevin asked if he could have some of them.

- Trees (Jeremy, Dale, Clark)

Dale stated he has been working on living snow fence maintenance, moving cribbing, and repairing fence. The cribbing is in place for three years, then moved to another site.

Shaun stated Rex had applied a chemical, Esplanade, to test some of the new plantings to see if there is any difference. If there is grazing in the area next to the trees, another chemical would need to be used.

Clark stated he has been doing a lot of tree calls. Attended a meeting with the City Urban Forestry regarding Emerald Ash Borer and over all tree health. They have asked the public to wait until August to call for assistance to give the trees time to leaf out.

Clark stated he is giving out information at each tree call with information about tree issues and care, along with information about the District. Clark stated he has also developed a card he gives the land owner stating tree care guidance for each tree call as a reference for people.

Clark stated he also assisted with cutting out weed barrier at living snow fence site trees.

- Administration (Jay, Shaun, & Kathy)

Jay stated he thought the District is on a good plan this year.

Kathy stated she had submitted a link to the District Budget on a website called A&I, Wyoming Administration and Information site. This site is to be referenced when requests for information about finances are made.

Shaun stated he had attended two days of meetings regarding an MS4 agreement, and has been working on the budget.

Consent Agenda

7. Approval of FY 2020-2021 Salaries- Consider approval for fiscal year 2020/2021 staff salaries.

Consider approval of the following salaries for FY '20-'21: District Manager - \$62,726.47; Financial Coordinator - \$47,673.60; Education Specialist - \$40,886.15; Water Specialist - \$46,258.93; Wildlife & Range Specialist - \$61,006.40; Tree Specialist - \$47,355.46; Tree Technician - \$47,673.60.

Jay moved to approve the Employee Salaries for FY '20-'21.

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion Items

8. Annual Plan of Work 2020/2021-questions and comments. Review and Approve at the August Board of Supervisors meeting.

Shaun asked that the Board to review the Annual Plan, give him feedback, and it will be looked again at the next Board meeting.

9. Wyoming Department of Transportation LSF defunding-program has been defunded for up to two years. If money becomes available they will start funding projects starting with 2021 proposals.

Dale stated \$87,000.00 worth of contracts have been submitted to WYDOT, but currently all funding has been cut due to budget cuts for the State of WY. The District is not sure when or if this program will be funded in the future.

Dale stated he had talked to Laramie County Public Works and they plan to continue to fund county living snow fences annually for \$10,000.00.

10.Laramie County Conservation District Reserve Policy-set reserve policy for 2020/2021.

Reserve accounts were discussed.

Jay moved to set Cash Reserve @ \$360,000.00 & Depreciation Reserve @ \$200,000.00 for FY '20-'21.

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

11.Other Business-

Shaun stated Bobbie Frank's replacement as Executive Director of WACD had been hired. Kevin read the announcement.

Shaun asked that everyone complete a survey from WACD regarding state convention. Shaun will forward the email to everyone.

Shaun discussed the current status on the building. Plan 1 is at a standstill until the District gives them feedback. The shop size was discussed. Jay stated it could be mandated time to have the staff construct a shop. The unknown about having tenants for the other part of the building was discussed. It was decided to proceed with the current selected building size. Shaun will contact Plan 1.


Brian Lovett, Laramie County Commissioner, stated Laramie County's sales tax revenue had not decreased as much as other counties in the state since the coronavirus impact.

12. Adjournment-Tom

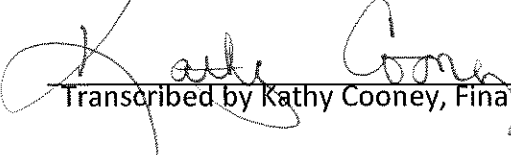
Kevin adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



Kevin Wells, Vice Chairman



Ann Sanchez, Secretary



Transcribed by Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator