

# Laramie County Conservation District

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

## Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

4:00 p.m.

### Attendance

**Supervisors Present:** Tom Farrell, Chairman; Kevin Wells, Vice Chairman; Dennis Hemmer, Treasurer; Lindi Kirkbride, Secretary; Jay Berry, Member.

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

**NRCS Employees Present:** Jim Pike

**Associate Supervisor:** Jim Cochran

**Farm Service Agency:** Laura Kessler

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

At 4:03 p.m. Kevin called the board meeting to order.

Laura Kessler, from the Farm Service Agency, invited the Board and employees next Wed., Oct. 24, to join NRCS & FSA as Under Secretary of Ag for Farm Production & Conservation, Bill Northey, will be visiting the Cheyenne office. An employee's meeting will be held from 8-9 am, and local producers will share experiences from 9-10 am.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING- Aug. 20, 2018

Dennis moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting;  
Lindi seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT- Profit and Loss Statement (Aug. & Sept. 2018) & Profit & Loss for July-Sept. 2018

**Dennis**

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

### 4. PROGRAM REPORTS –

–Education (Tom, Paul)

Paul stated he has been busy, and has reached 1,600 students in recent months. Paul did his first-ever teaching lesson on the F.E. Warren Air Force Base. He took the Stream Trailer to the Youth Center. Paul stated he taught an in-class water field trip at Johnson Junior High for two days, and then Shaun, Rex, and Paul all taught the Prairie Wind Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders about trees, wildlife, and ecosystems. Paul also stated he was getting word out to schools promoting the poster contest.

Paul stated the Fall Newsletter was drafted, and handed out a couple of copies for the Board to view.

Tom noted he had received some nice compliments from staff regarding Paul.

### **-Wildlife & Range (Kevin)**

Kevin noted the loss of Gal Val, collared deer, due to being hit by a car. Another deer is hoped to be collared in the future. The District is working with Kim Parfitt, and Citizens for Science, and Game & Fish.

The Board suggested presenting tracking findings when data has been compiled at the NACD Convention.

### **- Water (Dennis, Jeff)**

Jeff stated the RFP for Crow Creek has been completed and is out. He will be doing a walk through with consultants tomorrow. The next step would be doing interviews by the end of November, then the selection process.

Jeff has been working with the Library and the treatment facility to install gutter bins. He wrote his article for the newsletter on the gutter bins. "Gutter Bin" is a retrofitting stormwater filtration system that removes things like cigarettes, cans, bottles, cups, fast food wrappers, hydrocarbons, gravel, salts, dirt, pine needles, leaves, grass clippings and yes, dog refuse and provides the first and probably most complete level of filtration possible in a city stormwater system.

Jeff also stated he has been working on Small Water Projects, and has received some applications. Jeff is also working on a Dept. of Ag Water Quality grant that is due by Nov. 2.

Jeff was asked about his plot of grass he has planted. Jeff stated it was a Zone 5 grass, but is supposed to be durable to foot traffic.

Lindi asked Jeff about his meeting with Representative Bill Henderson about water issues in county. Jeff stated he was wondering about an assessment on water, and possible legislation in the future on water.

### **- Trees (Dale, Clark)**

Clark stated he started work on Tuesday of this week and gone on a couple of tree calls with Shaun.

Dale stated fencing is complete except for cribbing. Dale has a County Living Snow Fence contract and it is on Jay Berry's property, and has been working with a new person at Laramie County Public Works. Dave Bumann is the Director there.

### **- Administration (Lindi, Kathy, and Shaun)**

Kathy updated the Board on the status on past due accounts. The District has received payments on the three outstanding accounts as of 10/12/18.

Shaun stated he has been working on tree calls with Clark, and noted the tree order form is done and will be mailed Oct. 29. CSU has limits this year on bulk orders, and have changed their rules that if you bulk order trees, you are not able to turn them back in.

Lindi asked about the number of tree calls Shaun has been on. Shaun stated he has done 100 more than he did last year, but calls have pretty much stopped for the year. Discussion on maybe having a form online to complete with tree issues, or emailing a photo of the tree issue to the District. Shaun stated that would help in some instances, and that he tries to group the calls to the same area on the same day to eliminate jumping all over the county.

### **- NRCS (Jim P)**

Jim Pike stated he is working on outreach for EQUIP applications for next year, and on irrigation. Jim will be retiring the end of Dec. 2018. The Board wished him luck in his retirement, and expressed their gratitude for the past years of working with NRCS.

The reason the District signs conservation plans does not have to do with the contract itself.

Discussion was held on if the District still does Platte Reviews. Jim Cochran stated the District doesn't do many anymore, although the county does require, by law, that the District does them. Reviews are under the County Commissioners authority. The District can comment on soil and water conservation.

- Conservation Plans
- Horse Creek Angus
- Davis Romsa
- Burkett Farms x 2
- Northrup
- Deselms
- Palmco Farm Management
- Matt Rundell
- Gary Smith

Kevin moved to approve the above listed Conservation Plans;

Dennis seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Jim Cochran stated he had attended the Area II meeting in Lusk, and the resolution presented was passed. Jim will not be able to attend WACD Convention where it will be presented. Jim explained the resolution stating that NRCS and geologists should have an agreement on cost. Currently if a well fails, the landowner pays 100% of the cost of drilling.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

**5. Accept the hiring of Shaun as District Manager, & Clark Young as Tree Specialist & Salary-** Review wage placement.

Dennis moved to approve the hiring of Shaun Kirkwood & Clark Young and their salary placement;  
Lindi seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**6. NACD Dues-** Consider paying annual membership dues in the amount of \$775.00.

Dennis moved to approve the dues in the amount of \$775.00;  
Lindi seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**7. Cheyenne High Plains Audubon Society Membership-** Gave \$100.00 in 2017.

Lindi moved to approve the dues in the amount of \$100.00;  
Jay seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**8. \$2,000.00 toward Dalmation Toadflax workshop-**Consider funding towards a workshop to be hosted next spring.

Lindi expressed the desire for the workshop to be a collaboration involving Botanic Gardens, Laramie County Commissioners, realtors, Laramie County Weed & Pest, and developers. Lindi would also like to see this become an annual event. Lindi would also like to see a more detailed budget.

Shaun stated Rex's desire was aimed toward small acreage landowners. Kevin and Dennis both expressed the desire to aim this first workshop toward small acreage landowners, and Kevin stated Rex does need to contact the Laramie County Commissioners.

Jay asked about laws for treating noxious weeds. Jim Pike stated he would get the information to Jay. Jay also asked about a weed called "mares tail". Jim Pike also noted that cheat grass is now also on the noxious weed list.

Lindi moved to approve support of the workshop in the amount of \$2,000.00;  
Kevin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**9. Purchase of weed barrier w/CSU-**Full container of 900 rolls @ \$48.00 per roll delivered.

Jay moved to approve the purchase of a full container of weed barrier;  
Kevin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**10. 2019 Community Enhancement Projects-**Discuss four projects submitted for approval.

Shaun described the four applications for Community Enhancement projects totaling \$3,999.19. Shaun asked if the remaining \$1,000.00 could be used to purchase another gutter bin for the city.

Dennis moved to approve all of the Community Enhancement applications & the additional \$1,000.00 toward another gutter bin;

Kevin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

## **Discussion Items**

### **11. Natural Area & where LCCD stands with LEADS-** Discussion as per Shaun.

Shaun stated he and Jeff had met with LEADS recently, and a copy of the management plan and MOU needs to be returned to LEADS. Shaun stated he would make copies of the agreement LEADS provided for the Board to look over. The agreement states the land will be deeded to the District. Hiring another employee to oversee the Natural Area and maintaining the building were discussed.

### **12. Discuss purchasing another pickup for Shaun/Manager/Office-** Purchase price would be the same as the current '18 F150.

Shaun suggested purchasing another pickup identical to the recently purchased '18 F150 for the Manager and office. Dennis suggested looking at another four door pickup for transporting staff, and something with a shell, so if Paul would use it for teaching, supplies would be protected.

Shaun will contract Ford to see what they have on the lot and cost.

Dennis moved to approve the purchase of a pickup;

Jay seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

### **13. Supervisor/Employee Training in Feb. 2019-** Who will be attending.

Justin Caudill, WY Dept. of Ag, sent an email asking if any Board of Supervisors or staff would be interested in a training in Cheyenne. Shaun, Kevin, and Jay all stated they would like to attend.

### **14. Discuss 4-H Funds & how LCCD would like to use the funds-**Discuss using these funds in the future for 4-H members.

Discussion of how to award funds to 4-H members were discussed from giving scholarships to members, to having clubs set up criteria, the Fair Superintendent judge projects, and feed scholarships for projects. It was also suggested to look at the Natural Resource division of the fair. It was suggested contacting the Laramie County Fair Boards head of 4-H as a resource.

It was decided to continue to research ideas, and discuss again.

### **15. WACD State Convention in Evanston & door prize-** Discuss if anyone is interested in attending & suggestions for a door prize for auction.

Shaun asked if anyone was interested in attending WACD convention in Evanston. Kevin stated he would look at the agenda as a resolution representative. Jim Cochran stated he could not attend. None of the staff showed an interest in attending.

An auction item was discussed.

Dennis moved to approve the purchase of an iron cowboy figure from Allwayz Manufacturing up to \$200.00;

Kevin seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **16. Annual Awards for 2018-Suggested recipients are Jim Pike, Mark Ellison, & Russell Dahlgren.**

An educator was suggested as none of the above fit that category. Shaun suggested Kerri Peterson from Prairie Wind Elementary, as she has had Paul teach there quite often. The Board agreed the more individuals recognized, the better.

#### **17. Building Purchase- Discuss repairs needed & negotiated price.**

Shaun stated the current lease on the building with NRCS/FSA is due to expire Feb. 1, 2019, then they would probably lease month to month until a new lease could be agreed upon.

The condition of the current building was discussed. Jay stated another inspection needs to be done since the water damage. It was decided to let the current letter of intent to purchase dated Nov. 1 with RCR Enterprises pass.

#### **18. Other Business**

##### **Tom**

A November Board meeting was discussed, and was decided there will be a November meeting.

Shaun also stated there was a Living Snow Fence that had burned due to a third party. The LSF is at Rd. 135 & Rd. 212. The District discussed replacing it at District cost.

NACD Convention in San Antonio was also discussed. Jay and Tom would like to go. Kevin stated he may be interested in attending.


Shaun also presented a summary of fees to Airgas each month on rent for oxygen/acetylene tanks. Shaun stated the District could purchase tanks for approximately \$500.00, and they would pay for themselves over several months.

Dennis moved to approve the purchase of tanks;

Lindi seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

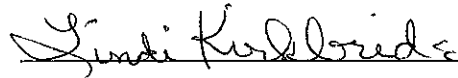
#### **19. Adjournment-Tom**

Tom adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.



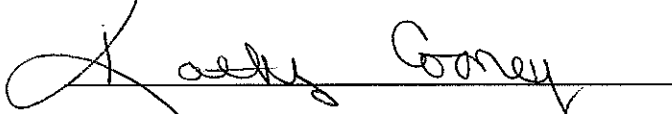
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Thomas E. Farrell, Chairman



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Lindi Kirkbride, Secretary



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Transcribed by Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator