

Laramie County Conservation District

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

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17th, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Attendance

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

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

Associate Supervisor Present: James Cochran

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 4:08 p.m. Tom called the board meeting to order.

At 4:08 p.m. Tom closed the regular board meeting and opened the Budget Amendment Hearing.

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

Shaun presented the changes for the Budget for FY '20-'21. Shaun asked for comments or questions.

Income: Increase #4242 to \$423,992.00 as additional grant funds for projects; add #4247 WDA Crow Creek Phase 1 Grant for \$20,000.00 approved; increase #4354 to \$16,000.00 as additional grant funds approved; decrease #4357 to \$34,500.00 as project reduced; add #4358 NACD Technical Ass. Grant II for \$45,000.00 as grant approved.

Expenses: Increase #5410 to \$102,738.00 to include additional projects; increase #6000 to \$19,958.69 for recent & late season mailing; increase #6050 to \$6,700.00 for additional insert in local paper; add #7061 for NACD Tech. Ass. Grant II for \$20,000.00 as funds not spent; decrease #7212 to \$34,500.00 as project reduced; increase #7229 to \$16,000.00 as additional funds approved; increase #7230 to \$3,800.00 to add new deer collar project; increase #7560 to \$17,280.00 to cover supply/demand; increase #8310 to \$3,927.31 to cover tabbing machine purchase.

With no further discussion,

Jay moved to approve the budget as presented;

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

At 4:11 p.m. Tom closed the Budget Hearing and opened the Board meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING- Aug. 20, 2020

Jay moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting;

Jeremy seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT- Profit and Loss Statement – (Aug. 2020) Shaun

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

5. PROGRAM REPORTS –

–Education (Ann, Paul)

Ann stated the closing of schools due to COVID-19 has affected the Education Program, but she is glad children are back in school. Ann also stated the District will be purchasing a video camera to post lessons on the website.

Ann also stated in talking to their hay customers, residents will be voting for the upcoming mill levy on the ballot.

Paul stated the most recent newspaper insert is out, it is on the website, and will also be available online at the WY Tribune the week prior to the November 3 election. Paul stated he has purchased a GoPro camera, and has posted two videos to the website. Videos have been added from WACD as well. Paul stated the Gutter Bin Contest was completed and the winner was posted on the website. The website was reviewed with staff and changes are currently being discussed.

Paul stated he had gone to get fingerprints done to enter the Boys & Girls Club. Paul stated the new stream trailer is being used and he took it to Lusk for a presentation, and has used it at East High School as well. Paul stated he may have a bit too much sand in it though.

-Wildlife & Range (Rex)

Rex stated the Curt Gowdy spraying project has been put on hold for now. Funds and the project were reduced.

Jeremy asked how long of a period between spraying and having cattle on the property? Rex stated one day. Rex stated a helicopter will need to be booked out of Longmont before the project can proceed.

- Water (Tom, Jeff)

Jeff stated the library detention project was completed as of today. LCCD will do a planting in the fall, and the District will have an event at the Library on September 26th to view the project.

Jeff stated he is continuing working on small water projects with landowners, and that he will be putting together a presentation for the Kiwanis for their 100th Celebration to present on September 24th.

Jeremy asked if the District is accepting any new small water projects. Jeff & Rex stated possibly in November.

- Trees (Jeremy)

Jeremy stated tree calls for Clark are tapering off, and that Clark had put out an RFP for weed barrier. Barlow Ag Sales will possibly not be selling weed barrier any more, and that is who the LCCD purchased from last year. Cherokee has contacted the district. LCCD has purchased weed barrier from them in the past. September 25th is the deadline for bids.

Jeremy also stated Clark is working with the Town of Pine Bluffs on a couple of Community Enhancement Projects. The deadline for applications is September 30. Those applications will go before the Board at the October board meeting.

Jeremy stated Dale had living snow fence contracts done, and Tom signed them prior to the meeting today. Dale and Clark also visited the nursery at CSU today, and stock may be limited requiring the district to possibly purchase trees out of Montana.

- Administration (Jay, Shaun, & Kathy)

Kathy stated the audit for FY '19-'20 has been scheduled. Auditors will be in the office October 20 & Oct. 21.

Shaun stated the ROOTED planting scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, has been postponed due to trees from Oregon cannot be delivered as trucks are being used for the fires.

Shaun stated the Annual Plan for FY '20-'21 has been completed with the board changes and is available on the website for viewing.

Jay stated he appreciated the work done by LCCD on the small water projects. Jay stated Gary Lamb has taken over at Bowman Irrigation and could assist with projects.

-NRCS (Shaun)

Shaun gave the NRCS report stating roughly \$500,000.00 for over 15 contracts have been obligated for 2020. These contract involve grass plantings, water and fence on expiring CRP, and tree plantings. Roughly 35 CRP renewals were visited by NRCS to ensure field conditions were appropriate.

Shaun stated the engineering position that was in Torrington is vacant and posting for the position will be listed on USAjobs next week, and it will be to fill the engineering position in the Cheyenne field office.

NRCS is looking for larger acreages and fields that need broadcast applications for weed projects to spray for noxious weeds. NRCS is looking for cheat grass, toadflax, spurge, and knapweed.

Conservation Plans:

- 📍 (1) : CRP plans, new - 24
- 📍 (2): CRP grazing - 4
- 📍 (3): CRP purchase - 1
- 📍 (4): CRP ownership change - 1
- 📍 (5): CRP emergency grazing - 6

Jay moved to approve the listed Conservation Plans.

Ann seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion Items:

- 6. AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER** - agreement from RLR, Certified Public Accountants and Advisors, to perform audit and scope of audit work for 2019/2020.

Tom signed the agreement letter at tonight's meeting. Kathy will return it to the auditors.

- 7. ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET** - on the calendar for December 4, 2020 @ Little Bear. Discussion of award recipients.

Shaun stated Kathy had called Little Bear to reserve the date, and more concrete information will be made at a later.

Shaun asked for suggestions for District Award recipients. Tom suggested Jennifer Wolfe from the library. The staff had already suggested Nancy Loomis from the work at the library and Mindy Meade from U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. No other suggestions were made at this time.

- 8. WNRF SUPPORT** – we have raffle tickets please support the cause.

Shaun stated the District has raffle tickets for purchase for \$25.00 each to be drawn at WACD State Convention in Torrington in November.

9. Other Business-

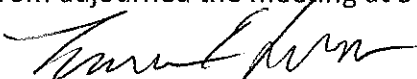
Tom asked how mill levy campaigning was going. Shaun stated signs are being put out, the voter flier had been mailed. Rex will be on KGAB radio on October 10. A pruning class is being held at the library on September 26, and staff will be available to the public from 11 am – 2 pm along with the stream trailer, seeder, and information with Jeff on the library detention pond conversion.

Jeremy stated he had received a call from Debra Lee at the elections office regarding being on the ballot.

Shaun asked who was all attending the Area II meeting next Friday, September 25th, in Wheatland. Tom stated he was. Shaun stated LCCD will be leaving the office between 7 & 7:30 am. The District is taking two pickups as weed barrier will be delivered, and the old stream trailer is being taken up for Converse County and that Tom can ride with staff. Tom stated he would drive himself.

10. Adjournment-Tom


Tom adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m.



Thomas E. Farrell, Chairman



Ann Sanchez, Secretary



Transcribed by Kathy Cooney, Financial Coordinator