

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2020 MEETING OF THE
CONVERSE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCCD) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Present: Stan Mitchem, Shelly Falkenburg, Susan Downs, Sharon Lovitt, Michelle Huntington, Anna Gray
Absent: Doug Horner

Chairman, Stan Mitchem, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Election of Officers

Susan Downs moved to retain officers as they are currently. Shelly Falkenburg second, motion carried. Officers for 2020 are Chairman, Stan Mitchem; Vice-chairman, Shelly Falkenburg; Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Lovitt.

Minutes

Sharon Lovitt moved to approve the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Sharon presented the Treasurer's Report and the bills to be paid. The supervisors had the opportunity to review the January bank reconciliations prior to the meeting. Shelly Falkenburg moved to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Chairman's Report

Stan encouraged the Board to review the Legislative Update's when Michelle sends them and to contact the local legislators with any comments or concerns. Items move through quickly this time of year so constant review of the issues/bills is imperative.

District Report

Michelle reported on the follow-up she has done regarding the structural issues and rehabilitation work that is needed on the dam and related systems of the LaPrele Irrigation District. Conservation District Statute allows for Conservation Districts to assist. The Board instructed Michelle to attend the LID Annual Meeting on March 9, 2020 and to inform the LID Board of our ability and willingness to help.

Anna presented a Windbreak Cost-Share Application. Susan Downs moved to approve the Rutar Windbreak Application as presented. Shelly Falkenburg second, motion carried.

Anna presented three Community Canopy Applications that have had public benefit verified. Shelly Falkenburg moved to approve the Cook, Kilgore and Snyder Community Canopy applications as presented. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Anna presented a Solar Conversion Application. Susan Downs moved to approve the Pickinpaugh Solar Conversion application as presented. Sharon Lovitt second, motion carried.

Anna presented a Resource Enhancement application that included engineering design assistance from NRCS. Susan Downs moved to approve the Bowen Resource Enhancement Irrigation project. Sharon Lovitt second, motion carried. Michelle provided an update to the Board on the engineering and application status of the Fiddleback Dam that was washed out during a high-water event in March 2019. Michelle continues to work with NRCS engineers and the landowner.

Anna presented a Septic Improvement Application. Sharon Lovitt moved to approve the Seeds Septic Improvement as presented. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Michelle reported that she will have an opportunity to review the FEIS and draft ROD of the Thunder Basin Plan Amendment in late March or early April before it is released to the public in May 2020. The USFS expects to have the final ROD completed in October 2020.

Michelle informed the Board that the BLM has invited CCCD to participate as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of an oil and gas amendment to the 2015 Buffalo and 2007 Casper Resource Management Plans. An MOU has been signed between CCCD and BLM and Michelle will participate in the process.

Michelle and Anna will be attending the WCDEA Winter Training March 3-5 in Casper. During the training, Anna will have the opportunity to attend Project Learning Tree and Project WET workshops.

Sharon Lovitt moved to appoint Michelle as the voting delegate for the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and to appoint Stan as the Alternate. Shelly Falkenburg second, motion carried.

Old Business

A final draft of the No-Till Drill Rental Contract that included changes as previously discussed was reviewed. Sharon Lovitt moved to adopt the No-Till Rental Contract. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

New Business

The 2020 Security Pledge from Converse County Bank was reviewed and signed.

Michelle stated that an update to the CCCD Land Use and Natural Resource Management Plan (Long Range Plan) is due this year. Michelle will prepare a survey to collect public input on the Plan that will be included in the March/April newsletter. An online option for completing the survey will also be developed.

NRCS Report

Tim Schroeder and Jake Hogan were able to join the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Jake's last day in the Douglas Field Office will be February 28, 2020 and he will begin as the District Conservationist-Tribal Liaison in Ft. Washakie on March 2, 2020. His work in Douglas has been invaluable and he will be missed.

An EQIP batching date has been announced for March 27, 2020. A press release will be issued soon by NRCS and Michelle will include the information in the upcoming newsletter. The obligation deadline will be July 17, 2020.

The NRCS State Conservationist, Astrid Martinez, will be completing her final detail in the Executive Service Training Program beginning in March. The detail is four months long. Area Conservationist, Rusty Schwartz, will be the acting State Conservationist and an acting AC for the High Plains Area will be named soon.

A new mentoring program, CAMP, is being developed. Conservation Districts will likely be asked to assist with the program. More information will be presented to the Board as it becomes available.

Other Business or Correspondence

Anna will be attending Legislative and Employee Certification Training February 25-27, 2020.

Sharon Lovitt moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Huntington