

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING OF THE
CONVERSE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCCD) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Present: Stan Mitchem, Shelly Falkenburg, Sharon Lovitt, Susan Downs (via Teams), Patricia Taboga, Michelle Huntington, Anna Gray, Stephanie Paul

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

Minutes

Sharon Lovitt moved to approve the August 8, 2024 meeting minutes as read. Shelly Falkenburg second, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

District Report

Michelle reported on the Area II meeting that was held in Lusk on September 6, 2024. Michelle, Anna, Sharon and Stephanie attended.

Anna presented nine (9) Community Canopy applications that had public benefit verified. An addition application was received (Dixon) that didn't meet the public benefit criteria for the program and was not considered for funding. Shelly Falkenburg moved to approve the Harnden, Arndt, Ivester, Jensen, Lewis, Lungren, Colling, Kingery and Pautz applications as presented. Patricia Taboga seconded, motion carried. Michelle presented information to the board on the need to change the application criteria for the Resource Enhancement Program. Office staff needs more time to plan potential projects with the applicant before the cost-share funding request is presented to the board. The board agreed to change the application deadline to at least 30 days prior to the board meeting where the application will be considered. Michelle and Anna will amend the application, and the new criteria will go into effect immediately.

Anna presented a Resource Enhancement application for power to a pivot installation that is being funded through an NRCS contract. Sharon Lovitt moved to approve the Falkenburg Ranches – Jeff Falkenburg application as presented. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Anna presented a Resource Enhancement application for a pipeline, solar well development and livestock watering tank installation project. Sharon Lovitt moved to approve the Reed application as presented. Patricia Taboga second, motion carried.

Anna presented a Resource Enhancement application for a livestock water development project to include the drilling of a new well. Shelly Falkenburg moved to approve the Indian Creek Ranch – Tim Pexton application pending approval of the well drilling application through the Wyoming State Engineers office. Patricia Taboga second, motion carried.

Michelle reported that she and Stephanie will be meeting with the Natrona/Converse FSA and Natrona NRCS field office staff on Friday, September 20, 2024 in response to and in support of Governor Gordons's Wildfire Disaster Declaration letter to USDA Secretary Vilsack. The minutes from this meeting need to be submitted to the FSA state office for consideration to enact emergency fund programs provided by FSA.

Old Business

The board reviewed and discussed the draft comment letter that Michelle wrote regarding the United State Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment. No edits or corrections were made. Michelle will submit the letter on Friday, September 20, 2024.

New Business

Attendance to the WACD Annual Convention was discussed. At this time, Sharon, Susan, Michelle and Anna will be attending. Susan volunteered to be the voting delegate for the business meeting and Sharon will be the Alternate.

Discussion was held regarding potential office closure over the Christmas holiday in December 2024. Sharon Lovitt moved to close the CCCD office the week of December 23, 2024 and to have Michelle and Anna coordinate staffing during the week of December 30, 2024. Susan Downs second, motion carried.

Michelle made the board aware of changes to Department of Labor – Fair Standards Act the rule change that went into effect on July 1, 2024. Changes pertain to wage requirements for exempt employees. Supervisors were asked to review and research the new rule in advance of the October board meeting were the item will be placed on the agenda.

Other Business and Correspondence

Thank you cards from Converse County Fair participants and from Gary Shatto (on behalf of the LaPrele Irrigation District Board) were reviewed.

Dates to remember:

September 21, 2024 – Household Hazardous Waste Day

October 17, 2024 – CCCD Board Meeting

November 14, 2024 - CCCD Board Meeting

November 18-21, 2024 – WACD Annual Convention – Jackson, WY

Seeing no further business, Stan Mitchem adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Huntington