



621 West Fetterman Buffalo, WY 82834 (307) 684-2526

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

April 17th, 2018

The meeting was called to begin by Chairman Fieldgrove. Those present included Ryan Fieldgrove, Luke Todd, Travis Rule, Jodee Pring with WWD, Bill Ostheimer with the Johnson County Recycling Board, Zach Byram, Amanda Hulet and Allison McKenzie.

Ryan gave a summary on investment options from Rick Myers at First Northern Bank. Rick has put together rates with FNB vs WYOSTAR and the pros of staying local with our investments. Ryan would like for the board to consider this and find out if the other banks in town offer something similar or would be willing to. More to come.

Bill Ostheimer from the Johnson County Recycling Board came in to visit with our board about the future of recycling in Johnson County. He thanked the board for their continuous help and numerous contributions to the recycling center particularly in the area of E waste. He would like to see us as well as the recycling board, the solid waste district, city and county get together on the matter of recycling and see what we can do in the future for solid waste management. Bill also volunteered his board to help with hazardous home waste day. HHW day is scheduled for June 2 at the fairgrounds.

The business meeting was then called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairman Fieldgrove.

Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed as well as the treasurer's report. Luke moved to approve the minutes from the meeting. Travis seconded. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was read and Luke moved to pay the outstanding bills. Travis seconded. Motion carried. Please refer to the Treasurer's report for a list of all bills.

The bank statement for March has been reviewed and found to be in the order and reconciled.

In old business, Zach update the board on the tree program. We have sold 849 mature trees and have totaled over 1000 trees which also includes seedling orders. The container trees have been delivered and Zach and Mandy are working to get those orders taken care of. We are still waiting for the balled and burlapped trees to arrive and seedlings will be here in May. Zach also wanted to thank Commissioner Bob Perry for offering his skid steer to help unload and load trees.

Zach then gave a report on the Winter Training held in Lander in March. He said it was a great hands on training with projects that were toured and water project processes were discussed. He also said that the procurement policies and a public records policy were discussed for all districts. More to come on policies.

Amanda gave a report on the Garden and Rural Living Expo that was held on April 7. The attendance had more than doubled and everyone was super happy with the presentations. Those in attendance gave excellent feedback. Also noted was that more people are seeing us on the web as half of the attendees found out about it through social media. The other half saw the ad the paper. Overall it was a great turnout and we are looking forward to planning next year's expo!

Allison discussed the EWP project. She essentially needed to know if the board would be willing to administer the program and be willing to move forward so that the engineers can move ahead and also get the surveying done. Once that is finished and we get a final number on estimates for the project, the board and Allison will go to the ditch companies to make sure they are aware of the project vision and cost. From there, we will get bids and proposals to fix the ditches. Travis moved to sponsor the administration resources for now. No other resources are to be used by the district until more concrete numbers are in and to prove that it will be feasible for the ditch companies to help with the project. Luke seconded. Motion carried.

Field office activity as well as district personnel reports were given.

In new business, Jodee Pring with WWD spoke on water projects, proposals, studies and the like. She is very knowledgeable in watershed studies which lead into projects to be funded by the state. She also explained the new changes to the small water project program. She spoke on the traditional project program as well. She went into depth on the Healthy River Initiative in the Popo Agie Conservation District and how it relates to what Zach is working on with his new program he is coining the Clear Creek Initiative. WWD has monies available for projects like this and highly encouraged the board to consider applying for those funds and get moving on the initiative.

The cost share program was discussed. Zach asked the board if moving on with the revised application from last year would be fine and get those applications out in June so that the producers can come back in August with the application to be considered and visited and then voted on in early fall. The board was good with Zach's plan to move forward in that manner.

Zach discussed the first draft budget with the board. So far, it looks as if the new budget numbers are pretty close to our current budget. The board was asked to look over the draft and come to next meeting with any changes so that those changes can be made and taken before the commissioners on June 1.

The 5 year plan was discussed. This was brought up at the last meeting for thought and at this meeting Zach has asked that the board members come to the next meeting with ideas on what they would like to see done or happen in the next five years. Zach and Amanda will be doing the same.

Zach finished new business by asking the board if they would consider doing a cost share on the well water testing again and be able to offer it to our constituents again. Luke moved that we do the cost share and offer it to the public. Travis seconded. Motion carried.

Board member elections were brought up again. Before, it was stated that Ryan and Priscilla's positions were up for reelection. Also up for reelection is Virgie's position. Virgie was unable to make the last two meetings and Zach just wants to be sure she knows that her position is up this year.

In correspondence, the trails board asked us to provide dog waste bags again. Ryan asked for a motion to approve this request and subject died due to lack of motion. No waste bags will be provided. Also, the WNRF sent correspondence regarding the Cowboy Chuck 'n Chip Golf Tournament. Amanda mentioned that those funds would be placed in the State Fair Endowment Fund this year. After discussion, Luke moved to not donate funds again this year due to our budget shortfalls. Travis seconded. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 15th at 6 pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Fieldgrove at 9:10 pm.


Ryan Fieldgrove- Chair


Priscilla Welles - Secretary/Treasurer

I. Treasurer's Report –The beginning balance as of March 19, 2018 was \$716,707.79. Since the February meeting, the District received \$189.00 from rain barrel sales, \$84.00 from weed barrier sales, \$31.97 from FNB from the checking account interest and \$2831.51 from mill levy. After all transactions as of 4/17/18, a balance of \$707,839.24 remains.

IV.

Outstanding Bills:

1. US Dept. of Treasury	\$ 1483.76
2. ACT	\$ 40.00
3. Buffalo Bulletin	\$ 514.00
4. University of Wyoming Extension	\$ 500.00
5. Imagine That LLC	\$ 60.00
6. Local Government Liability Pool	\$ 916.00
7. WY Dept of Workforce Services – Unemployment	\$ 52.95
8. WY Dept of Workforce Services – Workers Comp	\$ 423.63
9. WY Dept of Revenue	\$ 7.01
10. Amanda Hulet	\$ 994.20
11. Zach Byram	\$ 4111.65
12. Wyoming Retirement System	\$ 1115.56
13. Amanda Hulet	\$ 1191.50
14. Zach Byram	\$ 594.77

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 12,005.03

II.