

**Minutes of Board March 9, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Star Valley Conservation District Office**  
**61 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Afton, WY 83110**

**Regular Meeting**

Rollin Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Rollin Gardner, Shane Crook, Harv Erickson, Cole Helm, Kay Lynn Nield, Chuck Butterfield, Terry Webb, Jim Webb, Ballard Johnson, and Steve Whiteside. Jeff Johnson was absent.

**Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed for February 9, 2022. Motion to approve minutes made by Shane Crook, seconded by Harve Erickson. Motion carried.

**Financials:** Bank statements and credit card statements were reviewed. Motion to approve the financials made by Shane Crook, seconded by Harv Erickson, motion carried.

**Agency Updates NRCS/Extension-none**

**,New Business: Ponds in Star Valley**

- Terry Webb, Jim Webb, Ballard Johnson, and Steve Whiteside met with the board to express their concern about the ponds that are being built in the narrows and in the Star Valley area in general. They are concerned about how they affect springs, water rights, irrigation, water quality on the Salt River. The Wyoming State Engineers office and Army Corp of Engineers approve the ponds. There is concern that adjacent landowners have no input in the process. There is a comment period after the ponds are put in place which in many cases is too late for meaningful input. SVCD has had many calls in the last year regarding ponds and has researched the process and has the same concerns. The Lincoln County Commissioners have expressed the same concerns. SVCD will talk to Representative Evan Simpson on the select water committee and see if we can get on the agenda for their summer meetings. We will pursue having more input on water quality issues with the Wyoming State Engineer and Army Corp of Engineers. We will ask Teton CD to our next meeting for information that they have gathered on ponds in the Jackson area.

**Unfinished Business:**

- BTNF- Monitoring in the summer and ESD effort continues with steering committee meetings with the USFS.
- No till drill
  - No updates
- Greys River Forest Collaborative:
  - Chuck Butterfield gave an update on the Greys River Forest Collaborative. He has set up four different working groups that will present projects that they would like to see the Forest pursue. They are grazing, forestry/weeds, wildlife, and recreation. They have been meeting since the first of the year. The next meeting is March 14, 2022, at the Afton Civic center. Harve will attend the meeting. Motion was made by Harve Erickson and seconded by Shane Crook to pay Chuck Butterfield \$40/hour for facilitation of the Greys River Forest Collaborative. Motion Carried.
- Water Quality Grant. We have used \$13,000 of the grant for Lower Swift Creek. We will send billing into the state.

- Level 1 Watershed Study for Salt River will be delayed until the fall. TU is hiring their watershed coordinator for the Salt River, and we will work with them to apply in the fall. Level 1 Watershed Study for Greys River Hoback no information yet.
- Water Testing-SVCD is getting all the supplies ordered to water test for the summer.
- Part time help options were explored. We looked into having Miles CPA or Wade Hirschi do our bookkeeping. To do this would require as much work as doing the books ourselves. We put most of our bills on auto pay and will do vouchers that match them. Most of our bills are paid online at this time.
- Land Use Plan-Open house was held tonight from 5:30-7:00. There was no public comment and has been none so far. The plan and open house have been advertised in the paper. There were a few people that did look at it on our website and Facebook page, but no comments or changes were made. Motion to adopt the Land Use Plan made by Harve Erickson, seconded by Shane Crook. Motion approved.

#### **New Business**

- BLM sent a letter on sage grouse for cooperating agency status. We will sign a letter to be involved in the process.
  - Next meeting will be Thursday, April 21 at 7 pm.
  - Kay Lynn will attend employee training in Casper April 5-7.
  - Storage Units in Lower Valley were looked at by SVCD. We will send contact info for landowners to Lincoln County Planning.
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- Motion to adjourn by Shane Crook  
Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

