

Minutes of Board April 20, 2023
7:00 pm
Star Valley Conservation District Office
61 E. 5th Ave, Afton, WY 83110

Regular Meeting

Rollin Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. In attendance were Rollin Gardner, Harv Erickson, Shane Crook, Cole Helm via Zoom, Kay Lynn Nield, and Patricia Smith.

Also attending were Adam Clark from the NRCS, Tanner Belnap from Trout Unlimited, and Chuck Butterfield from the Greys River Forest Collaborative.

Minutes: Harv motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Shane Johnson seconded; motion approved unanimously.

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

Agency Updates: NRCS- Adam Clark gave an hour-long presentation earlier in a separate meeting so no further update.

SRWG-Tanner Belnap gave an update on the Salt River Watershed Group. Tanner let the Board know Simplot has donated the rock and trees for the Rico Ditch project. There are about \$350k of grants he has applied for to go to other projects. The 2 diversions at Clark's Barn have been approved for \$25k each. The group is also working with the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning on pond permitting. The Grover Canal project is in the beginning stages. There was discussion on who and how to contact the landowners to get their permission and support for the project.

Greys River Forest Collaborative-Chuck Butterfield gave an update on the forest collaborative and the projects they have going on. The group is hiring a silviculturist to do prep work. The group is working on timber sales and has been consulting with Rich Stem on how best to accelerate this and various other projects. The group will develop a list of needs for the county. There was discussion as to whether having the Lincoln Conservation District join the already established collaborative was a good idea or not. Kay Lynn and Chuck will be meeting with Justin Laycock to discuss his concerns.

Lower Valley Irrigation Users- We are still working on a comprehensive list of the current irrigation users and districts.

RHAP- Kay Lynn gave update- The Forest Service will be getting a veg plat for the RHAP and ESD has been approved.

Small Acreage Workshop- April 22nd SVCD is partnering with the Lincoln County Weed and Pest and University of Wyoming Extension to present a workshop for those with just a few acres who want to learn to use the land. Have approx. 180 have people signed up so far.

Lower Valley Irrigation Issues- Harv let us know that WYDOT has dropped the suit and we will wait to see what exactly that means for those irrigation users.

Level 1 Watershed- Mabel Jones from the Wyoming Water Development Office met with SVCD over a Zoom call and went over the next steps for getting the Level 1 Watershed project funded. There is a meeting in Cheyenne on May 11th to discuss this. After this there will be a recon visit here in Star Valley where the Wyoming Water Development Commission comes to inspect the area.

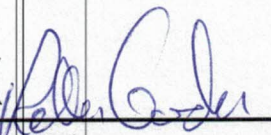
Nield String Small Water Project-state has sent contract, once contract is signed the Nield String Water can start purchasing the supplies needed. The cost has come down from \$89k to \$69k. They are currently working on getting state permits.

Budget- discussion regarding how much the SVCD should ask Lincoln County Commissioners for the next fiscal year. Currently we are funded at \$60k per year, and the Board suggested that it would not be too much to as for \$80k. Kay Lynn let the Board know that the budget is due by the middle of May and asked for a working meeting to work on this. Meeting was set for May 9 at 7pm.

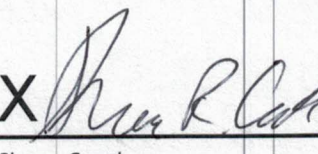
No Till Drill: Kay Lynn gave a report on the funds we have collected for a new No Till Drill. She asked if the Board would approve to move the money from subdivision reviews over to the restricted account to purchase a new drill. There was discussion regarding size and prices. No decision was made regarding to move the money.

Next regular board meeting was set for May 25, 2023.

Shane Crook moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

X  6-15-23

Rollin Gardner Date
Chairman

X  6/15/23

Shane Crook Date
Vice Chairman

X

Jeff Johnson
Treasurer/Secretary

Date

6/15/23

X

Harv Erickson
Supervisor

Date

6/15/23

X

Cole Helm
Supervisor

Date