



Crook County Natural Resource District (CCNRD) April 4th Regular Board Meeting Minutes

CALL MEETING TO ORDER at 12:02 pm by Chairman Wayne Garman, at the Sundance USDA Service Center and virtually.

ATTENDANCE

Board: Lily Altaffer, Kim Fundaun *Virtual*: Wayne Garman, Casey Devish

Employees: Sarah Anderson, Bridget Helms, Jessica Halverson, Carmen Horne-McIntyre (*Virtual*)

Guests: Keela Deaton, NRCS District Conservationist (*Virtual*)

MONTHLY UPDATES

Financials A motion to pay the bills was made by Kim and seconded by Lily. Motion carried. All checks were signed, and the reconciliation reports prepared by Bridget were reviewed and signed. A discrepancy was found in the bank reconciliation due to a check posting twice; the bank was contacted, and the correction was made on April 3.

Approve February 7th Minutes A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Kim and seconded by Casey. Motion carried.

Office Manager Update by Bridget **Compost bin pickup** Bins are expected to arrive the last week of April. Due to needing a pickup truck to haul the pallets, a motion to pay mileage was made by Lily and seconded by Kim. Motion carried. **Insurance** Bridget presented the quote for increasing insurance coverage on business personal property and sampling equipment. Lily made a motion to raise insurance contents to \$10,000 and add sampling equipment policy coverage. Kim seconded. Motion carried.

NRCS Update Keela gave an update on Post Inflation Supplemental Payments (PISP) for practices installed from January 2023 through September 2023. A new batching date for EQIP and CSP projects runs through May 3rd. The Local Working Group will be held April 18 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm held in Gillette this year. The cover crop program funded by the Plank Stewardship Initiative is changing to a grant-based organization. A RFI (request for information) will be submitted by Jessie and Keela to request money for cover crop program going forward. Keela has received calls from producers who would like to plant cover crops. There was discussion on changing the cost share rate; it will remain at \$30 per acre for now.

Water Quality Program Updates by Carmen & Jessica

Contract amendments Jessie presented contract MW04042023 need number that had changes, added tanks and pipeline and will not be drilling a well. The cost is less than originally contracted. Kim makes motion to approve contract number MW04042023, Casey seconded. Motion carried.

Grant updates WDA grant has been submitted and reviewed; WDA meets next week and we will know if we receive funding. Carmen has been working on the Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) and has submitted it to DEQ. She is currently working on a BMP report for Triston (WACD). She will review the joint board meeting minutes and will send them out before the May meeting. **UAC grant** was applied for by March 13; this is a \$10,000 planning grant. Jessie plans to work with UW Extension for projects at the fairgrounds at the UW-Extension hoop house. This grant will cover mostly community outreach activities at the hoop house, and materials like planters that they need.



Upcoming educational events Jessie will attend the Ag expo on April 25 in Gillette. The District was asked to help at the Hulett youth camp on June 3; unfortunately staff are unable to attend this year.

Forestry Program Update Sarah reported that the forestry projects are behind schedule due to snow; a few projects were able to be finished: a 129-acre project, a 92-acre project, and a 13-acre project. The meeting with Weston County Natural Resource District and Wyoming State Forestry set for this morning was canceled due to weather, it will now be next week. They have one Weston County project and three Crook County projects to review. One hazardous fuels reduction project was completed and one 10-acre project was canceled; funds have been reallocated to another landowner willing to do a project last minute. The Pine Ridge Road BLM grant will close out in May. The USFS MOU was signed and approved. Sarah attended the NFAB unofficial meeting last month. Forest plan revisions are still in progress. Sarah has been asked to represent the WACD/State of Wyoming on a public lands and forestry committee. However, the district would incur all of travel expenses, which does involve travel to the NACD annual meeting and possibly trips to Washington, DC. The deadline to apply is April 14. Kim and Lily would like her to do it, but the decision is up to Sarah. Lily made a motion to submit the application form to gather more information on the commitment, Kim seconded. Motion carried. A Pine Ridge Road BLM project was finished but not in time to appear on the March financial report. The project has been inspected and is complete. Lily made a motion to pay for this project. Kim seconded. Motion carried. The check was issued today.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Program update There have been about 360 trees sold to date, which is less than half of what was sold in total last year. Ads have been on the radio; newspaper ads will be going out this week. The nursery prefers for us to receive the trees the last week of April. We have asked to use the fairgrounds buildings if necessary for sorting and storage of the trees. A decision will be made based on the number of trees on the final order. Orders are due April 12.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle discussion Tabled.

Budget discussion Bridget will be presenting a proposed budget next month for approval and asked for input on the County funding request and any other upcoming projects. Carmen suggested looking into County ARPA funding if it still exists.

Health care Lily made a motion for a health insurance stipend of \$1151.06 to Sarah Anderson based on her eligibility as a full-time employee of the District. Casey seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lily at 2:17 pm.

Office Manager Signature:

 Date: 5-2-23

Chairman Signature:

 Date: 5/3/23