**Division III Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting Notes**

**Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton and Uinta Counties**

**June 6, 2017 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

LWG Meeting Minutes - Afton Field Office

**Present:**

Gary Blazejewski - DC, NRCS

Mary Thoman - SWCCD

Kay Lynn Nield - Star Valley CD

Astrid Martinez - NRCS STC

Rigo Lopez - Rocky Mountain Area Conservationist

Jeff Lewis - DC, NRCS

Jennifer Hayward - DC, NRCS

Mike Henn - SCCD

Shirleena King - Ultima, NRCS

Jill Randle - WY G & F

**Not Present**:

Lincoln Conservation District

Uinta County Conservation District

Teton County Conservation District

I. Meeting started out with Gary going over the purpose of the Local Work Group (LWG)

II. Minutes of the meeting from 2016 were reviewed and commented on.

- Mary Thoman stated that most if not all of the recommendations from 2015 have been completed in 2016.

-Mike Henn reminded the group that a report was to be sent out 90 days after the 2016 meeting, which was not received so Gary assured the group one would be sent.

III. Gary presented slides.

- It was requested that the slide presentation be sent out with the attachments.

- There was a short discussion of changing soil quality to soil health. The resource concern is soil quality and the

 Program is soil health. The resource concern will stay as soil quality.

IV. Discussion of replacing an existing pivot with a new pivot, replacing existing pumps, replacing existing wheel lines with

 Pod lines. Currently policy states in the FY 2017 Payment Rate and Guidance Sheet states that replacement irrigation.

 system of the same type is NOT eligible. Example - pivot system to a pivot system or a sideroll to a sideroll system.

 - Some options discussed were conversion from high pressure to low pressure and re-nozzeling.

 - A water savings/increase in efficiency needs to be shown in order to go from one sprinkler system to another.

V. Gary went over resource concern checklist from #1 to #12.

 - There was discussion of changing the order of some of the resource concerns, however since there were districts

 missing, it was decided to give a “homework assignment” and have each District rank them independently

VI. RCCP Program

 - Star Valley has one proposal (state account).

 - Another proposal coming from Sublette County on monitoring migration corridors.

VII. Comments from Astrid

 - Wants the LWG’s to meet earlier, January or February, possibly twice a year.

 - Have the Districts use a resource concern assessment to prioritize resource concerns and the top 4 or 5 will be

 incorporated into the ranking worksheet.

 - Astrid wants to appoint people for no more than two years as points of contact to help improve communications

 among all of the Districts and also tie those people in with the State Technical Committee meetings.

 - There was discussion of the possibility of splitting Division III.

 - There was discussion on using VTC or Skype type programs to cut down on travel.

VIII. Mary Thoman brought up AIM and HAF, which are two protocols being used by the BLM to assess range and sage

 grouse suitability for habitat.

 - There was discussion about NCRC being involved but NRCS is NOT involved. BLM is using NRCS protocol for

 conducting NRI as part of the AIM.

VIIII. Ranking Priority

- Ranking Priority was not completed due to lack of attendance therefore, it was decided that each District

 do their own and it will be compiled with the minutes and emailed to all.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirleena King

NRCS Administrative Assistant

Gary Blazejewski

NRCS District Conservationist