

Minutes of Board April 10, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Star Valley Conservation District Office
PO Box 216, 61 E. 5th Avenue, Afton WY 83110

Rollin Gardner called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. In attendance were Rollin Gardner, Harv Erickson, Cole Helm, Kay Lynn Nield and Gary Blazejewski.

Minutes: Minutes for February and March 2019 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Harv Erickson, and seconded by Cole Helm, motion carried.

Financials: Vouchers and card statements were reviewed. Bank Statements for March 2019 were reviewed. Motion to pay vouchers and approve the financials was made by Harv Erickson, seconded by Cole Helm, motion passed.

Agency Updates: NRCS

- Gary Blazejewski gave updates on NRCS projects. (see NRCS report attached)
- Meeting tomorrow on Larry Nield-Max Merritt project.
- Gary will be leaving to take a new job. We wish him the best of luck. It's been a pleasure working with him at NRCS.

Agency Updates: Extension

- Lincoln County Extension has a 4 foot no-till drill that could be used by producers willing to have a research component with what they'd like to plant. Contact Hudson Hill at the extension for more details.
- Irrigation workshop with extension. The board discussed that this would be a good workshop for the public. There are many new people who have moved in and don't know how the irrigation systems work in the valley. The board will go through the Wyoming Small Acreage Irrigation pamphlet from extension and see what is relevant for Star Valley. We can then reach out to irrigation districts to put a workshop together.

Unfinished Business:

- 319 Updates
 - Merritt/Draney/Anglesey/Nelson project
 - Water Testing: Resume in 2019
 - Synoptic Studies: Kay Lynn will make contacts with landowners and USGS/DEQ in 2019 to go forward with these studies.
 - 319 Amendment: Complete
 - Tyson and Hal Hepworth Project.
 - Lane Walton: Drill in 2019
 - Joe Nield: Drill 3 wells for offsite water in 2019.

- Septic Workshops
- Lance Bateman
 - The 319 projects and billing are progressing.
- WDA Grant-Ken Clark
 - Final vouchers are progressing.
- RHAP Blind Bull/Grizzly Basin and Blind Trail/Stewart
 - The Forest Service didn't sign the partnership agreement for Blind Trail/Stewart allotments at this time. We will apply for them again on the next round of RHAP. The FS will continue to gather monitoring information about these allotments in anticipation of the next round of RHAP.
 - The Board of Agriculture met April 8-9 in Cheyenne and is reviewing the RHAP application for Blind Bull/Grizzly Basin.
- Greys River Forest Collaborative:
 - April 4, 2019 meeting at the Etna Community Center
 - The FS signed the Tri-Basin timber sale. They should have it marked in late June or early July. It should then go out for bid in August and harvest could start this fall if the successful bidder would like to start then. Fire Trail and Murphy Creek are on hold because of the Roosevelt fire. Salvage timber will be offered from the Roosevelt area.
 - FS signed Middle Greys Travel Management plan.
 - FS presented the Salt Creek project to the group. This is located at the South end next to the salt mine. The project will re-route the creek around the mine and enlarge the culvert to alleviate flooding during high water.
 - Information was presented on NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and how the FS goes about the planning and implementation of NEPA. There was information presented on effective public comments on NEPA documents.
 - Grover Park is the next focus area of the collaborative. There were break out groups with ideas on what to do in that area regarding recreation, timber, grazing, and hiking. How do we want the area used and ideas of what people would like to see in the area? There will be a field trip to the area on June to look at the area.
 - Information was presented by the Friends of the Bridger Teton. They are a 501c3 group that can fundraise with private parties for help with funding projects on the forest. They are not an environmental group.
 - The single-track motorized proposal was re-visited. At the previous collaborative meeting we didn't vote with moving forward on the proposal. The outfitters in the group were not in favor of the proposal because of the damage to the trails. Discussion was held on enforcement of motorized use. Many of the trails are being used by motorized recreation even though they aren't designated trails. There were a couple trails in the motorized proposal that could be looped into the existing trails on the Middle Greys Trails. The group decided to continue looking at different options for the single-track proposal. The group also wanted more information on enforcement for off trail use. We will re-visit this again in the August meeting.

- Next meeting will be a field trip up Grover Park on July 16, 2019 at 9 am. We will meet at the FS parking lot.
 - Regular collaborative meeting will be August 29, 2019 from 9am to 3pm at the Etna Community Center.
- Funding from the Forest Service is still in progress. Justin Laycock says the FS is working on it and will have money soon.
- We did not get funded for the Joint Chief's grant proposal. The feedback we received on that was that the NRCS portion needed more of an explanation. The Forest Service Projects and NRCS projects didn't align really well either. We will work on the proposal for next year.
- Curtis Haderlie/TCD Food Compost Project: This project is ongoing. Rollin noted that there was a large compost pile at the farm.
- Public Records Request: Kay Lynn is finishing up the request.
- Wyoming Water Development Commission Grant-Larry Nield/Max Merritt project. Rollin Gardner signed the contract. Jeff Johnson will need to sign when he gets back from meetings.
- Kay Lynn Nield attended the Wyoming Watershed's Conference on Feb 20-2 in Casper, Wyoming. The conference had speakers on water quality standards, E.coli risks, tools for water sampling, microbial source tracking, best management practices, success stories for de-listing streams, effective monitoring, and grazing management. This should help us to be successful as we work towards delisting the Salt River.
- Randy Hruska No till Drill: SVCD offered Randy \$12,500 for the drill to be paid over the course of 5 years interest free. Randy countered with \$15,000 over 6 years interest free. We decided to put the subdivision review money in the restricted account and accept Randy's offer. Kay Lynn will draw up a contract. Motion to purchase the no-till drill made by Harv Erickson, seconded by Cole Helm. Motion carried
- WCDEA Employee Training-Saratoga
 - Kay Lynn attended the grant management training, Training Modules, and legislative update the first day. Legislative updates regarded the procurement rules and public records request.
 - The second day was effective commenting on State/Federal Registry/NEPA documents followed by a presentation on cooperative projects. The cooperative projects included information on logistics, landowner and water issues, and the bidding process for projects. Kay Lynn also attended the Manager Roundtable discussion.
 - The third day was an introduction to mediation by Lucy Pauley from the WDA.
 - This was all valuable information to use in running the district.

New Business:

- Subdivision Reviews/Conditional Use Permits: none
- SVCD contacted Tim Moyer to see if he was interested in using 319 monies to drill a well in Auburn. He said he was interested and will come into the office to talk about what we can do.
- WDA Water Quality Grant is due May 13, 2019. We will look at putting in for 3 grants. The first will be for water developments with the forest service on Dry Creek, Little Greys, and Sutter Canyon. The second will be for weed control with the Forest Service and Weed and Pest. The third would be for the Max Merritt/Larry Nield project with Trout Unlimited.
- The Star Valley Community Expo is on May 9th at the Thayne Community Center from 4-7 pm. SVCD will put a booth up about water quality and septic education.
- Budget request is due next week. SVCD board will go over the information next week. We will ask for mediation training to help with the collaborative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by Harv Erickson