

## **Hoback Ranches Service and Improvement District**

P. O. Box 33, Bondurant, Wyoming 82922

### **JANUARY 19, 2019, AMENDED BUDGET MEETING**

#### **MINUTES**

**Directors in attendance:** Dave Nemetz, Sam Sumrall, Sally Ruosch (by phone)

**In attendance at the Bondurant Fire Hall:** Tio Rich, Bambi Rich, Jess Bradbury, Cherann Bradbury, Jim Jacobson, Alice Jacobson, Dave Shipek, Melissa Shipek, Joe Smith, Cecilia Karins, Cat Love, Lou Love, Greg Bemis, Willy Watsabaugh, Nancy Watsabaugh, Bill Conley, Molly Nemetz

**In attendance by phone:** Pete Teller, Sandy Teller, Tim Delaney, Joe Leduc, Gloria Thomas, Richard Thomas, Tom Sramek, Rollin Sparrowe, Mike Smith, Jill Smith, Bryan Radakovich, Clinton Radakovich, Mike McNulty, Gary Zunino, Valerie Zunino, Barb Burris, Matt Borst, Louise Winney, Lisa Kimber, Brad Eves, Nikki Cowley, Lucy Conley, Darrel Wolfe, Jeff Bauer

**Guests in attendance:** Mike Henn, Sublette County Conservation District Manager; Jim Mitchell, Sublette County Emergency Management Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Chairman Nemetz.

#### **POST-ROOSEVELT FIRE GRANT INFORMATION**

Chairman Nemetz introduced **Mike Henn, Sublette County Conservation District Manager**, to give an overview of the **National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant**. Mr. Henn explained that the NRCS grant is through an Emergency Watershed Program to protect life and safety. He said the grant was secured with the help of the Wyoming Congressional delegation. The grant is for \$581,000 and requires a 25% match which was provided by the Mineral Royalty Grant.

Seventy-five spots on the road system were identified by NRCS engineers as needing mitigation. The grant does not include installing new culverts, only protecting existing culverts. The primary method to protect culverts is to put

perforated plastic tarps over the ends of the culvert to allow water to pass through, but not dirt and debris.

Straw wattle dams and rip rap are also used to prevent erosion. NRCS engineers will work with the contractor selected by the HRSID in the spring to determine which of the 75 sites need remediation.

The NRCS grant stipulates that work needs to be completed by July 26, 2019, and a one-time 60-day extension is possible from the national NRCS office.

**Jim Mitchell, Sublette County Emergency Management Coordinator**, was introduced to explain the **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant**. This grant is for \$425,000 and requires a \$141,000 match, which is being paid by Sublette County. There is an additional \$20,000 available for a professional grant writer who will be selected by the Sublette County Commissioners. Mr. Mitchell explained that invoices for work completed will be paid by the county and will then be reimbursed by the grant. He said this will require a lot of oversight by the county.

Mr. Mitchell also said he is working with a company to install a weather station on Kismet that will measure temperature and wind speed.

Questions and comments from owners followed. They included:

- 1. Was a watershed analysis done before the wood straw was applied?*
- 2. Conceptual engineering is required before construction starts.*
- 3. The BLM has a hydrologist on staff who could determine the amount of water culverts can handle, and it would not cost the HRSID.*
- 4. Where was the wood straw applied?*

Chairman Nemetz said that Brian Barney from Jorgensen Engineering spent several days doing a pro bono analysis of the post-fire road conditions and issued a report that specified critical areas needing mitigation. No watershed analysis has been performed to date and the Board would welcome Mr. McNulty's/BLM assistance in procuring one. Chairman Nemetz said the wood straw was primarily applied around the two abutments on Rim Road. Mr. Nemetz also commented that the District will need to find out how to mesh the grants together because each grant specifies how the money can be spent. He said it will take a couple of summers to complete the work because of the short summer season.

Mr. Nemetz explained that the **State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB) Mineral Royalty Grant (MRG)** is for \$288,000. Of this, \$145,000 will be used as the match for the NRCS grant and \$143,000 to pay for the wood straw.

He also said that a man living near the Warren Bridge has offered free rock that could be used for rip rap, and there is a need for someone to pick it up, and an area to store it is also needed.

### **Amended budget presentation**

Director Sumrall explained that the amended budget (attached to these minutes) reflects a \$900,000 addition to the revenue and expenditure columns.

The current anticipated amount of \$1,420,750 in grant money is not shown in this budget because not all of the grant money will be received in this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2019. The State statutes require that special districts cannot spend more than the budgeted amount approved at the last annual meeting so it is necessary to approve the amended budget before any more bills can be paid.

Director Sumrall asked if there were any questions from owners before the vote was taken by the Board. There were no questions, so Chairman Nemetz asked for the question. Director Ruosch moved that the amended budget prepared by District CPA Mary Ann Menster be approved. Director Sumrall seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

### **Fencing**

Bill Conley gave a fencing update to owners. There are 19.6 total miles of fencing around the Ranches. The BLM and the surrounding ranchers will facilitate the replacement of approximately eight miles of fencing. He said the fencing grant received prior to the fire from JIMRO/PAPO, plus \$40,000 in donations from Hoback Ranches owners, and \$20,000 (5K per year x 4) of HRSID money, plus \$39,000 in kind fence removal, which totals \$228,000, will cover the cost of replacing the remaining 11 miles of perimeter fencing not bordered by ranchers. The animal-friendly fencing that will be used costs between \$3.50 and \$5.50 per foot, depending on the terrain. Animal-friendly fencing requires wood posts and

three wires, two slick, top and bottom with a middle barb, or a top rail and one barb and one smooth.

The northeast section of the Hoback Ranches perimeter does not need to be fenced because the terrain is too steep for cattle to cross onto District land.

Mr. Conley has been working with Forest Service, BLM and adjoining ranchers, and all have agreed to a two-year grazing hiatus around Hoback Ranches because very little fencing remains after the fire. There are a couple of areas on the western boundary where the previous fence was placed incorrectly. For this reason, the Forest Service will survey, at no cost to the Ranches, this area to insure that the new fence will be put in the proper location.

Property owners who border a fence are asked and strongly encouraged to pick up old steel posts and wire from their property in the spring.

### **Post-Fire road issues discussion**

Chairman Nemetz reported that the road impact fee will be waived for the 2019 and 2020 summers for owners rebuilding after having their homes destroyed by the fire. Landowner permission for clearing burned trees and hazard mitigation on private property outside the 33 foot easement on both sides of the platted roadway centerline will be needed to prevent tall trees from falling on the road. Chairman Nemetz said a simple document to allow the District to work on private property will be needed. He then asked for volunteers to form a committee to recommend to the Board when the road should be opened to heavy equipment for reconstruction and logging trucks, and to contact owners to obtain permission to access their private property. Director Sumrall stated that in the absence of laws or regulations that can be enforced, we have to rely on residents acting like good neighbors using common sense in a spirit of getting along when facing difficult circumstances and issues.

Director Sumrall asked owners to contact him if they want to serve on the committee. His email is [samsawjan@yahoo.com](mailto:samsawjan@yahoo.com). Thanks to Pete Teller and Lucy Conley who volunteered to help with grant administration, and Gloria Thomas, Tio and Bambi Rich, Willy Watsabaugh, Greg Bemis, Joe and Phil Smith, David Shipek and Melissa Defoor who also volunteered.

## **Upcoming board of director position election**

Director Nemetz asked owners to consider running for the Board of Director position that is up for election on May 7, 2019. Applications for the Board of Director position need to be submitted between February 4 and 24. They may be requested by emailing [HRSID@yahoo.com](mailto:HRSID@yahoo.com).

The applications, along with a brief description of past business or board experience, may be returned to the same email address or given to a board member. Election ballots will be mailed to owners and qualified electors between April 5 and 15, 2019. This is a three-year position from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

## **Other business**

An association of special districts and conservation districts has been formed in Wyoming as an oversight organization to work on behalf of these districts and lobby when necessary in the state legislature. At this time, Senate Bill 0057 is before the legislature. It would require special districts to designate (likely hire) a person to maintain public records who would be subject to criminal penalties for violation. The Wyoming Association of Special Districts is asking owners within special districts to contact state legislators and encourage them to vote "NO" on Senate Bill 0057 because of the impact on budgets and potential criminal liability. Hoback Ranches legislators are:

Sen. Dan Dockstader	307-885-9705	Dan.Dockstader@wyoleg.gov
Rep. Jim Roscoe:	307-730-5389	Jim.Roscoe@wyoleg.gov

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Nemetz adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

