**MINUTES**

**WEBER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WCD) MEETING**

Regular Meeting, February 5 , 2019

FSA Office, Ogden, UT

**ATTENDANCE:**

Appointed Weber Conservation District

(WCD) Voting Members:

**John Degiorgio,** *Chairman*

**Matt Peterson,** *Supervisor*

**Trevor Wayment,** *Supervisor*

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF):

**Loralie Cox***, Resource Coordinator*

**Hannah Freeze**, *Planner*

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

**Jenny Cox,** *District Conservationist*

Visitors:

**Ben Watkins,** Fish and Wildlife Team Advisor for Freemont High School

**SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTION**

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2. NRCS Update Page 2
3. Envirothon Team Sponsor Page 3
4. Resource Coordinator Update Page 3
5. Larkin Dairy Update Page 4

**WCD MEETING- CALL TO ORDER**

WCD Chairman John Degiorgio called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.. **A motion was made by Mr. Matt Peterson to approve the January 8, 2019 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Trevor Wayment. The motion carried unanimously.**

**NRCS UPDATE**

Per Jenny Cox, District Conservationist, There may be another government shutdown, and preparations are in place in case it does. There will still be agents available and current office functions would still be maintained. The Coalville position is still available with a higher salary. At this time NRCS agents are taking turns covering shifts in the Coalville office. Funding for projects are currently processing. Local work group meeting was successful. Multiple pipeline projects are still moving forward, and strategic funding will likely be able to benefit these projects as well. Per the meeting, weed control is also a major concern, the boards elected to 5% of team funds to benefit these projects. The WCD board would like further clarification on how the 5% of funding will be used for the project. Loralie suggests locating a specific area that needs control, and then to contract out the work to a specific weed control team. Loralie can provide info on teams that would be available for this type of work.

**ENVIROTHON TEAM**

Per Lexie Francis, Student President of Fish and Wildlife Team Freemont High School, THey are currently working on a Magnetic Pole Fishing project. The poles are used to stun the fish. Then students measure and weigh fishes, and document varieties. The team consists of 20 plus members and meets every Thursday for an hour. They plan to being a study of birds, soil, and water quality. The students are very enthusiastic and love nature. They are passionate about protecting the environment, and helping in conservation efforts. Two Teams 4H Team, and an FFA Team need funding to help educate local youth on how to care for the environment. The teams need funding to help with envirothon fees, and lodging. The board approved $200 to donate to the Team. **Mr. Matt Peterson made a motion to approve the $200.00 donation, Trevor Wayment seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Ben Watkins, Fish and Wildlife Advisor, would like to partner with the NRCS and The WCD for educational resources and presentations.

**RESOURCE COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Per Loralie Cox, Resource Coordinator, The Soil Health Workshop will be held in Logan on February 19th from 8-3 p.m.. There will be several presenters and land owners coming to speak. The Rural Caucus will be held February 15th. The WCD board will need to decide if they would like to participate in a Zone meeting this year. John feels a field tour would be much more effective, however the board needs to figure out how to create higher attendance. The board would like to put more effort into a field tour rather than a zone conference.

**LARKIN DAIRY UPDATE**

Per Hannah Freeze, NRCS Planner, The DEQ sent another letter To Larkin Dairy at the end of December giving a Feb 1st deadline to start construction on required compliance projects. Mike Kholer, Erica Gaddis, Jay Olsen and Don Hall have all been actively working on this project with the owner Mr. Kelly Larkin. Mike had a contractor lined up to start construction, but Mr. Kholer has come to the conclusion that Mr. Larkin is not doing his part to reach compliance. Mr. Kholer feels the funding could be put to better use. Mrs. Gaddis would really like to help Mr. Larkin, but also feels if he is not meeting deadlines that the funding will need to be redistributed to other producers in need of the funding. Mr. Larkin has not signed the necessary paperwork to receive the funding that has been awarded to him. Unfortunately it is likely that the dairy will fail if Mr. Larkin does not take on projects to improve the operations. Mr. Larkin may also be at risk of losing his license due to using his dairy barn as a residence. Mr. Larkin has made some efforts to create a couple of berms at his own expense, but he will still need to work to manage his manure stockpile. Mr. Digiorgio expressed concern that the berms would end up on county property, Hannah acknowledged this may be the case but Mr. Larkin will not likely be willing to move the berms further from the property line.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. John Degiorgio to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blair Hancock and the motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m..