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 Lower Wind River Conservation District

## ANNUAL PLAN JULY 2022- JUNE 2023

### **Mission Statement of the Lower Wind River Conservation District:**

*The Lower Wind River Conservation District is dedicated to local development and implementation of programs to provide leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of the District's natural resources, agricultural heritage and resource base through preventing soil erosion, protecting water quality and quantity, conserving and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting the district tax base and promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the District.*

### Staff and Board of Supervisors

#### **Staff:**

Cathy Rosenthal – District Manager [cathy.rosenthal@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:cathy.rosenthal@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Kirsten Becker – Natural Resource Specialist, [kirsten.becker@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:kirsten.becker@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Robert (Bobby) Thoman P.E. – District Engineer, [rthoman@wyoming.com](mailto:rthoman@wyoming.com)

#### **Board of Supervisors:**

The Lower Wind River Conservation District (LWRCD) has a five-member Board of Supervisors. These Board of Supervisors serve a four-year term and are comprised of three rural (living outside of a municipality), one urban (living inside a municipality) and one at-large (either rural or urban) members. The LWRCD Board of Supervisors conduct meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Nick Biltoft (At-Large) – Board Chairman

Richard Denke (Rural) – Board Vice Chairman

Rod Rivers (Rural) – Secretary/Treasurer

Ron Lucas (Rural) - Member

Ray Appelhance (Urban) - Member

## Administration and District Operations

- Hold monthly Board of Supervisors meetings
  - Prepare agenda and financial reports
- Develop and maintain the Fiscal Year Budget in accordance with state statutes and Wyoming Department of Audit.
- Comply with Wyoming Department of Agriculture and Wyoming Department of Audit standards and submit annual requirements
- The LWRCD purchased an office building in August 2022. As new owners of the multi-suite office building, the LWRCD will work with a building manager to provide maintenance and updates to current and future renters.
- Continue to seek sources of funding for LWRCD District projects and activities
- Maintain enough staff to carry out the programs of the district
- Provide training to supervisors about responsibilities and requirements of special district board members
- Increase outreach to advertise our programs and activities
- Attend educational meetings, conferences and trainings put on by WACD, WCDEA, and other organizations
- Review the 2021-2025 Long Range Plan annually

## Education

- Work with local schools, civic groups, the UW Extension Service, NRCS and other agencies to provide natural resource programs and materials
- Provide educational booths and programs at local events
- Continue providing Barnyards and Backyards magazines to district citizens
- Continue to meet with locally elected officials and citizens to gain additional support for District and State programs
- Develop and distribute brochures and newsletters to citizens in the LWRCD District
- Host No-Till Drill/Soil Health workshops to share the soil benefits of using a No-Till Drill

## Land Use Planning

- Prepare soil reviews for proposed subdivisions and send recommendations to the Fremont County Planning Commission and the landowners
- Meet with the local working group to determine direction for Farm Bill Programs
- Continue as a Cooperating Agency in the implementation and updates of the Bureau of Land Management Lander Resource Area Resource Management Plan and the Shoshone National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
- Invoke coordination with agencies when state and/or federal plans will harm the health, safety and welfare of the citizens in the LWRCD District
- Work with landowners to apply for Rangeland Health Assessment Program funding when available, and develop and implement rangeland health monitoring programs
- Encourage landowners with existing programs to continue rangeland monitoring

## Resource Conservation

- Maintain and improve Resource Enhancement, Community Enhancement and Analysis cost-share programs for citizens in the LWRCD District
- Advertise and implement the cost-share programs

## Soil Conservation

- Work with landowners and NRCS to plan windbreaks
- Continue to sell seedling trees, shrubs and planting materials to landowners
- Provide tree planter and weed barrier machines to plant trees and shrubs
- Maintain the tree planter and weed barrier machines
- Work with the NRCS and other agencies to provide programs on soil health
- Encourage citizens to test their soils
- Work with citizens to prevent soil erosion
- Rent out the No-Till Drill to citizens in Fremont County
- Continue to expand our Soil Testing program

## Water Quality and Quantity

- Continue meeting/communicating with the steering committees and landowners for Muddy Creek, Poison Creek and Ocean Lake to implement the respective watershed plans
- Continue the water quality monitoring program for Muddy Creek through a WDA grant. Will communicate with WDA and complete grant reporting requirements.
- Work with local landowners, other agencies and groups to implement Best Management Practices in the Ocean Lake Watershed through a WDA grant. Will communicate with WDA and complete all grant reporting requirements.
- Continue and expand the well water testing program
- Promote irrigation best management practices
- Work with the NRCS on the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program should the need arise
- Work with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, other conservation districts and local citizens on nutrient management and harmful algal bloom concerns

## Wildlife Habitat

- Work with landowners to provide and improve wildlife habitat
- Work with other agencies and groups to improve wildlife habitat
- Provide comments on proposed migration corridors
- Obtain funding to maintain and improve wildlife habitat

## Financials

2022-2023 Budgeted Revenues	
Mill Levy	\$525,200
Sale of Goods and Services	\$30,000
Grants	\$40,000
Other Revenue	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$592,000</b>

Reserves	
2021-2022 Reserves	\$638,603
Reserves being added	\$5,000
Reserves being pulled	\$400,000
<b>2022-2023 Reverses</b>	<b>\$243,603</b>

2022-2023 Budgeted Expenses	
Capital Outlay	\$38,000
Administration	\$99,850
Operations	\$350,500
Indirect Costs	\$47,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$535,850</b>