



625 E Madison Avenue, Suite 1  
Riverton, WY 82501  
(307) 463-0636

[www.lowerwindrivercd.org](http://www.lowerwindrivercd.org)

 Lower Wind River Conservation District

## ANNUAL PLAN JULY 2023- JUNE 2024

### **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)

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

Braxton Stephens – Programs Coordinator [braxton.stephens@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:braxton.stephens@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Amanda Ablard – Education Coordinator [amanda.ablard@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:amanda.ablard@lowerwindrivercd.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 hold meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Rod Rivers (Rural) – Board Chairman  
Ron Lucas (Rural) – Board Vice Chairman  
Ray Appelhance (Urban) – Secretary/Treasurer  
Nick Biltoft (At-Large) - Member  
Richard Denke (Rural) – Member  
Clay Schafer – Associate Member

# Priority Programs of the LWRCD and Associated Tasks

## Administration and District Operations

- Hold monthly Board of Supervisors meetings
  - Prepare agenda, minutes and financial reports
- Develop and maintain the Fiscal Year Budget in accordance with state statutes and Wyoming Department of Audit requirements.
- 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 owners of the multi-suite office building, the LWRCD will continue to work with a building manager to provide maintenance and updates for the betterment of the property.
- Continue to seek sources of funding for LWRCD District projects and activities
- Maintain sufficient personnel to carry out the programs of the district
- Provide training to supervisors about the responsibilities and requirements of special district board members
- Attend educational meetings, conferences, and trainings put on by WACD, WCDEA, and other organizations for staff development.
- Review the 2021-2025 Long Range Plan annually

## Education

- Work with local schools, civic groups, other Fremont County Conservation Districts and other agencies to provide natural resource programs, information and materials
- Regularly update our website and social media platforms with current resources and information on the district's happenings
- 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, distribute and promote brochures about programs, other resources and newsletters via mail, email, our website as well as in person at local fairs and workshops.
- Host a Small Acreage workshop or another natural resource related workshop for constituents
- Host a No-till drill/ Soil health workshops to share the benefits of using a No-till drill and teach constituents of their value

## Land Use Planning

- Prepare soil reviews for proposed subdivisions and send recommendations to the Fremont County Planning Commission and 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's Sage Grouse Planning effort and Grazing Policy guidance
- Continue coordinating with the Fremont County Weed and Pest on updating the MOU for the LWRWMA.
- Invoke coordination with agencies when state and/or federal plans 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
- Provide technical assistance and communication for Resource Enhancement and Community Enhancement projects
- Promote, implement, and track the cost-share programs

### Soil Conservation

- Work with landowners, NRCS and other entities to plan windbreaks
- Continue selling seedling trees, shrubs and planting materials to landowners
- Provide weed barrier and tree planting guidance and services to constituents
- Work with the NRCS and other agencies to provide workshops on soil health
- Educated and encourage citizens to test their soils
- Continue to develop the No-till drill program to citizens in Fremont County, providing maintenance and transportation of both drills and access to scheduling as a convenience to landowners.
- Continue to expand our Soil testing program

### Water Quality and Quantity

- Continue meeting/communicating with the steering committees, landowners, and agencies including the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for projects related to Muddy Creek, Boysen and Ocean Lake
- Continue water quality monitoring efforts on Muddy Creek and / or tributaries to Boysen that the district and partners deem appropriate.
- Work with local landowners, other agencies and groups to implement Best Management Practices in the Ocean Lake Watershed through WDA grants. We 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 and landowners on the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program when applicable.

## 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 and other habitat concerns
- Obtain funding to maintain and improve wildlife habitat

## Financials for FY2023 - 2024

2023-2024 Budgeted Revenues	
Mill Levy	\$657,078
Sale of Goods and Services	\$32,500
Grants	\$54,000
Other Revenue	\$13,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$757,078</b>

2023-2024 Budgeted Expenses	
Capital Outlay	\$128,000
Administration	\$172,850
Operations	\$403,500
Indirect Costs	\$66,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$770,475</b>

2023-2024 Budgeted Reserves	
2022-2023 Reserves	\$458,736
Reserves being added	\$515,000
Reserves being pulled	\$270,624
<b>2023-2024 Reserves</b>	<b>\$703,111</b>