

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
WYOMING BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
FISCAL YEAR 2018
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**



**MEETEETSE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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INTRODUCTION:

The Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) Annual Report has been prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Wyoming Conservation District funding through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. It is also intended to assist the MCD Board of Supervisors in keeping the general public, other governmental entities, and non-governmental organizations informed of the activities and accomplishments of the MCD through fiscal year 2018 (FY 18). The MCD encourages public comments, which will help the District effectively plan its future.

SUPERVISORS:

<u>MCD Board of Supervisors as of July 1, 2017</u>			<u>MCD Board of Supervisors as of June 30, 2018</u>		
Office	Name	Position	Office	Name	Position
Chairman	Tim Morrison	Urban	Chairman	Tim Morrison	Urban
Vice-Chairman	George (Tracy) Renner	Rural	Vice-Chairman	George (Tracy) Renner	Rural
Treasurer	Merilee (Kathy) Gilbreath	At-Large	Treasurer	Merilee (Kathy) Gilbreath	At-Large
Secretary	Lionel Ostrander	Rural	Secretary	Lionel Ostrander	Rural
Member	Joe Thomas	Rural	Member	Joe Thomas	Rural

STAFF:

Bernie Spanogle retired at the end of FY 18 and the Park County Firewise program was transferred to Resource Specialist Josh Kipley. Josh was previously a forestry technician / wildland firefighter with the United States Forest Service for five years and currently serves as a firefighter with the Meeteetse Volunteer Fire Department.

<u>MCD Staff as of July 1, 2017</u>			<u>MCD Staff as of June 30, 2018</u>		
Name	Position	Status	Name	Position	Status
Steffen Cornell	District Manager (DM)	FT, Hourly	Steffen Cornell	District Manager (DM)	FT, Hourly
Joshua Kipley	Resource Specialist (RS)	FT, Hourly	Joshua Kipley	Resource Specialist (RS)/ Firewise Coordinator	FT, Hourly
Bernie Spanogle	Firewise Coordinator	PT, Hourly			

BUDGETING:

The MCD Board of Supervisors and staff developed the budget for FY 18 according to the Wyoming Uniform Municipal Fiscal Procedures Act. The budget was approved following the public budget hearing on July 12th, 2017. All FY 18 activities were within the constraints of the budget. MCD was forced to use substantial reserve funds for the second straight year due to continued declines in revenue from its Mill Levy.

FINANCES: (Financial References Within This Report Are Unaudited)

In FY 18, the MCD maintained checking accounts at First National Bank in Powell and at Pinnacle Bank in Cody, as well as investment accounts for both cash and reserve funds with the Wyoming Government Investment Fund (WGIF). MCD operated on a cash basis and had no debt. The MCD used a VISA account through Pinnacle Bank to simplify purchasing. QuickBooks Pro 2016 was the accounting software used by MCD. MCD used an outside contractor, Schatz Accounting Services, for managing payroll and certain other bookkeeping responsibilities.

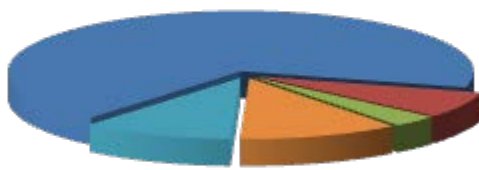
BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON of FY 18 & FY 17:

	Jun 30, 18	Jun 30, 17	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
0999 - Holdings / Transfers	347.62	0.00	347.62	100.0%
1000 - First Bank of Wyoming	2,101.13	2,495.71	-394.58	-15.81%
1001 - Pinnacle Bank Chk - xx01	5,731.71	3,365.85	2,365.86	70.29%
1004 - Firewise - Pinn Bank	297.96	14,472.88	-14,174.92	-97.94%
1050 - WGIF Local xx00	24,687.56	21.43	24,666.13	115,100.93%
1052 - WGIF Mixed xx65	5,569.50	0.32	5,569.18	1,740,368.75%
1054 - WGIF Firewise xx04	11,613.91	0.00	11,613.91	100.0%
1060 - WGIF- SGPP xx76 - Other	7,644.39	30,447.48	-22,803.09	-74.89%
1061 - WGIF-Wyo-Ben xx52	0.00	3.44	-3.44	-100.0%
1910 - WGIF Depreciation Reserve xx73	2,931.31	61.97	2,869.34	4,630.21%
1910.03 - BHFC D Depreciation Res xx96	0.00	2,840.52	-2,840.52	-100.0%
1920 - WGIF NRM&P Reserv xx74	28,932.46	92.18	28,840.28	31,286.92%
1920.03 - BHFC D NRM&P Res xx88	0.00	28,557.37	-28,557.37	-100.0%
1930 - WGIF Emerg Res Mixed xx75	29,987.64	70.79	29,916.85	42,261.41%
1930.03 - BHFC D Emerg Res Mixed xx70	0.00	49,430.21	-49,430.21	-100.0%
1931 - WGIF Emerg Res Local xx77	0.00	64.57	-64.57	-100.0%
1931.02 - BHFC D Emerg Res Local Fnds xx38	0.00	10,973.59	-10,973.59	-100.0%
1990 - WGIF Startup Res xx72	20,002.00	45,020.26	-25,018.26	-55.57%
Total Checking/Savings	132,202.80	157,467.65	-25,264.85	-16.04%
Total Current Assets	132,202.80	157,467.65	-25,264.85	-16.04%
TOTAL ASSETS	132,202.80	157,467.65	-25,264.85	-16.04%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Credit Cards				
2400 - Pinnacle Bank Credit Card				
2452 - VISA 2752 - Virginia L Davis	-2,408.49	-2,408.49	0.00	0.0%
Total 2400 - Pinnacle Bank Credit Card	-2,408.49	-2,408.49	0.00	0.0%
Total Credit Cards	-2,408.49	-2,408.49	0.00	0.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
2101 - Payroll Liabilities				
2101.01 - Payroll Liabilities-Summer Hire	870.73	870.73	0.00	0.0%
2101 - Payroll Liabilities - Other	180.56	180.56	0.00	0.0%
Total 2101 - Payroll Liabilities	1,051.29	1,051.29	0.00	0.0%
2120 - Employee Share Benefits	-1,143.38	-1,143.38	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Current Liabilities	-92.09	-92.09	0.00	0.0%
Total Current Liabilities	-2,500.58	-2,500.58	0.00	0.0%
Total Liabilities	-2,500.58	-2,500.58	0.00	0.0%
Equity				
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	279,444.00	279,444.00	0.00	0.0%
3900 - Retained Earnings	-89,024.85	-24,875.44	-64,149.41	-257.88%
Net Income	-48,071.38	-64,149.41	16,078.03	25.06%
Total Equity	142,347.77	190,419.15	-48,071.38	-25.25%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	139,847.19	187,918.57	-48,071.38	-25.58%

REVENUES:

The MCD FY 18 total revenues of \$126,024 consisted of \$85,933 (68%) from its Mill Levy, \$8,824 (7%) from WDA Base Funding, \$4,000 (3%) from WDA Water Quality Lab Funds, \$14,072 (11%) from Competitive Grants, and \$13,195 (10%) from Interest and Other Income. FY 18 Mill Levy funding was the lowest it's been in over 12 years.

FY 2018 Revenues = \$126,023.80

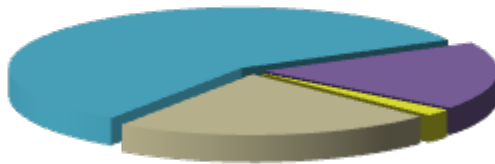


■ Mill Levy	\$85,933.29 =	68%
■ WDA Base Funding	\$8,823.50 =	7%
■ WDA WQ Lab Funds	\$3,999.63 =	3%
■ Competitive Grants	\$14,072.14 =	11%
■ Interest & other income	\$13,195.24 =	10%

EXPENDITURES:

The MCD FY 18 total expenditures were \$174,095. Administration expenditures were \$38,704 (22% of total expenditures); Operations expenditures, including project contribution pass-throughs were \$100,714 (58%). Indirect expenditures, including payroll expenses, insurance (liability, vehicle & property) and employee benefits (retirement, health & airlift insurance) were \$31,479 (18%). Total Capital Outlay for equipment and software was \$3,198 (2%).

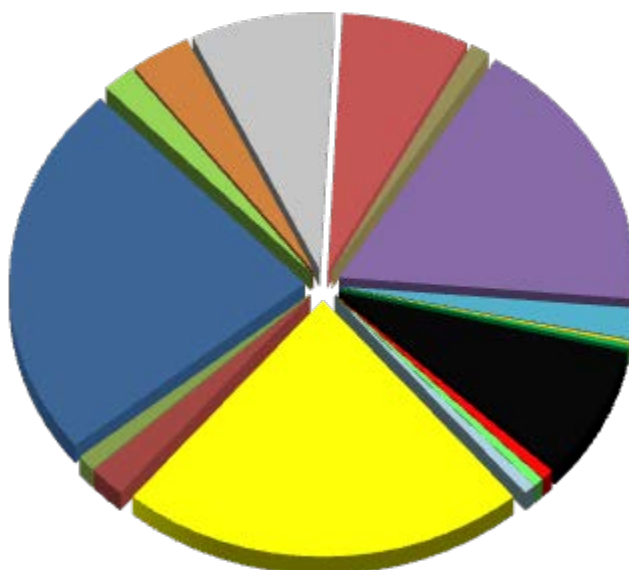
FY 2018 Expenses = \$174,095.18



■ Administration	\$38,703.69 =	22%
■ Operations	100,714.27 =	58%
■ Indirect	\$31,479.12 =	18%
■ Capital Outlay	\$3,198.10 =	2%

23% of the MCD's direct expenditures were for administration and 77% for operations. The higher proportion of expenditures for Employee Benefits was due to employees using higher than normal accrued sick leave and vacation time throughout the year.

FY 2018 Direct Expenditures by Class



■ Admin	\$38,664.56 =	22%
■ Coop. Assistance	\$3,467.87 =	2%
■ Education (providing)	\$1,804.86 =	1%
■ Employee Benefits	\$41,253.86 =	24%
■ Firewise Title III	\$3,128.92 =	2%
■ Indirect	\$5,807.46 =	3%
■ NRM&P	\$13,637.26 =	8%
■ Other Op.	\$12,202.72 =	7%
■ Range	\$1,854.69 =	1%
■ SGPP	\$30,392.16 =	17%
■ Trail News/Facebook	\$3,418.93 =	2%
■ Training - OP	\$357.45 =	<1%
■ Vehicle	\$497.78 =	<1%
■ Water Quality	\$14,280.44 =	8%
■ Weather	\$1,193.76 =	1%
■ Website	\$971.57 =	1%
■ YU Bench Fence	\$1,160.89 =	1%

FY 18 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES:

Income

3100 · Operating Revenues	
3120 · Sales/Rentals	46.50
3150 · Mill Levy	<u>85,933.29</u>
Total 3100 · Operating Revenues	85,979.79
3200 · Grants	
3220 · Dept of Ag Base Funding Grant	8,823.50
3230 · Dept of AG WQM grant- lab funds	3,999.63
3250 · Competitive Grants	<u>14,072.14</u>
Total 3200 · Grants	26,895.27
3300 · Misc.	
3320 · Interest - C.D.s & Bank Accts	
3320.1 · Interest - non-reserve Accts	581.15
3320.2 · Interest - reserve Accts	<u>864.01</u>
Total 3320 · Interest - C.D.s & Bank Accts	1,445.16
3330 · Refunds	7,000.00
3340 · Building Use	70.00
3390 · Other income	<u>4,633.58</u>
Total 3300 · Misc.	<u>13,148.74</u>
Total Income	<u>126,023.80</u>

Expense

4100 · Admin Personnel Services	
4105 · DM Admin	18,065.00
4110 · RS Admin	<u>9,905.43</u>
Total 4100 · Admin Personnel Services	27,970.43
4200 · Board & Employee Expenses	
4205 · Travel (Meals, Lodging, Fuel)	422.91
4210 · Mileage	-178.08
4215 · Bonds	247.00
4290 · Other Board Expenses	<u>157.42</u>
Total 4200 · Board & Employee Expenses	649.25
4300 · Contractual Services	
4310 · Accounting/auditing/Technical	<u>888.75</u>
Total 4300 · Contractual Services	888.75
4800 · Office	
4810 · Admin Supplies/Postage	722.99
4830 · Office Bldg-Maintenance/Repairs	42.75
4850 · Office Utilities	<u>6,041.33</u>
Total 4800 · Office	6,807.07
4900 · Other Admin	
4910 · Dues/Memberships/Subscriptions	1,363.05
4925 · Registrations/Tuition/Apps	612.45
4990 · Other Misc.	<u>412.69</u>
Total 4900 · Other Admin	2,388.19

Expense (cont.)

5100 · OP Personnel Services	
5105 · DM Wages	34,087.20
5110 · RS Wages	28,466.78
5125 · Firewise Coordinator Wages	<u>1,680.00</u>
Total 5100 · OP Personnel Services	64,233.98
5200 · Travel	
5205 · Travel (Fuel, Meals, Lodging)	2,043.77
5210 · Mileage	<u>-17.38</u>
Total 5200 · Travel	2,026.39
5300 · General Operating Expenses	
5310 · Freight/Postage/Shipping	198.80
5320 · Printing and Repro	63.00
5340 · Maint/Repairs-OP Equip	12.35
5350 · Supplies - Operations/Office	1,204.09
5370 · Dues,Memberships,Registrations	5,806.48
5380 · Advertising & Promotion	353.80
5390 · Other	<u>365.55</u>
Total 5300 · General Operating Expenses	8,004.07
5400 · Vehicle Expenses	
5410 · Passenger Vehicles Expenses	<u>22.78</u>
Total 5400 · Vehicle Expenses	22.78
5500 · Professional Services	
5520 · Tech Cons NRM&P, WQM, Web	<u>407.50</u>
Total 5500 · Professional Services	407.50
5600 · Special Expenses - Operations	
5610 · Contrib. to Outside Programs	584.75
5690 · Other Special Ops incl SGPP	<u>25,434.80</u>
Total 5600 · Special Expenses - Operations	26,019.55
6100 · Insurance	
6101 · Automobile Insurance	475.00
6105 · Liability	1,038.00
6110 · Property Insurance	1,087.00
6115 · REACH Air Medical	<u>185.00</u>
Total 6100 · Insurance	2,785.00
6200 · Indirect Payroll Costs	
6206 · Social Security - MCD	104.17
6210 · Workers Comp	2,073.66
6215 · Unemployment Taxes	167.67
6220 · Retirement	7,551.40
6226 · Medicare - MCD	1,336.96
6250 · Health Insurance/Life Insuranc	<u>17,460.26</u>
Total 6200 · Indirect Payroll Costs	28,694.12
7000 · Capital Outlay	
7010 · Admin equipment and software	99.99
7020 · Operations Equipment and softwa	<u>3,098.11</u>
Total 7000 · Capital Outlay	3,198.10
Total Expense	<u>174,095.18</u>

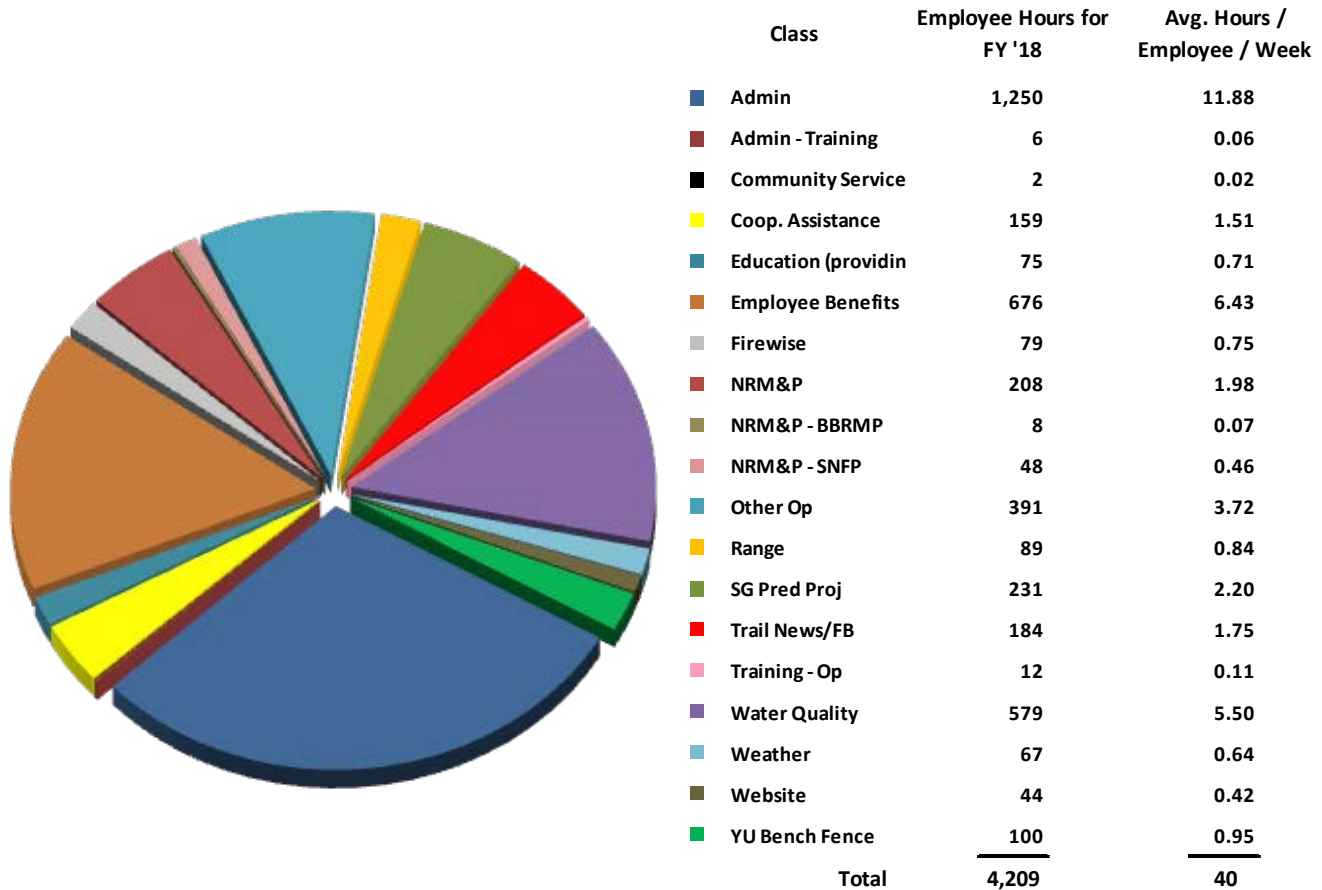
Net Income

-48,071.38

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

Activities (employee work time) are referenced in budgeting and tracked in the accounting system as *Classes*. The chart below illustrates a breakdown of all employees' time spent on administration (Admin & Community Service) activities or any of the sixteen operations activities. Activities in the 'Other Op' (operations) class may not fit within other existing classes or may encompass a combination of other existing classes.

FY 2018 District Activities by Class



In order to better evaluate its accomplishments and attainment of objectives, MCD continued to differentiate between District administration and District operations.

ADMINISTRATION:

MCD defines *Administration* activities as those activities that primarily keep the office and District functioning.

Administrative activities (including training & community service) required an average of 11.95 staff-hours per week over 52 weeks. The District Manager (DM) is responsible for the bookkeeping, banking, financial reporting and other administrative responsibilities while the Resource Specialist (RS) takes care of the majority of clerical duties such as scheduling, reception, recording of meeting minutes, information dissemination, cleaning and others. The DM also performed tasks requiring direction, oversight and review of various administration-type activities, comprising approximately 57% of the total while the RS performed approximately 43% of the total administrative activities by staff.

- 30% of total salary and wages were for administrative activities. This is a 9% decrease from the previous year.
- Salary and wages for administrative duties were 72% of total administrative expenditures (71% in FY 17).
- Non-payroll expenses, such as office building repairs, utilities, dues, and supplies accounted for 28% of total administrative expenditures (29% in FY 17).

Meetings:

MCD's Board of Supervisors and staff regularly met on the second Wednesday of each month of FY 18, at the District office located at 1906 State Street in Meeteetse, as scheduled. All regular meetings, special meetings, work sessions, and the annual budget hearing were held in accordance with Wyoming Statute. The MCD actively participated at the Area and State level meetings as a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD); attended the WACD Area III meeting in Cody; attended the 2018 WACD Annual Convention in Casper; NRCS LWG meeting in Worland; and Special District Association Meetings via teleconference. The MCD conference room known as the "Ferret Den" was utilized for various meetings hosted by the WY Game & Fish Dept., Park County 4-H, the Meeteetse Visitor's Center, and is let out to the community for various events.

Administrative Training:

MCD maintained a close working relationship with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, which has statutory oversight of certain conservation district activities as well as WACD. Chairman Tim Morrison attended the UW Extension Brainstorming session for small acreage issues. MCD Board members Joe Thomas and Tracy Renner attended the WACD 2017 Natural Resources Rendezvous in Casper. Staff will attend trainings for employee (re)certification purposes as necessary.

Community Service:

The MCD Board of Supervisors supports emergency services to the local community and also supports those staff who are members of the Meeteetse Volunteer Fire Department. Occasionally, staff is called out during normal business hours to assist on the scene of accidents, fire suppression, rescue efforts, etc. but this time is minimal compared to the value provided to the community.

OPERATIONS:

MCD defines services and associated activities for which the District was formed as *Operations*. MCD operations include: natural resource management & planning, educational seminars and workshops, technical assistance, wildlife habitat & migration enhancement projects, monitoring and reporting of water quality, soil moisture monitoring, range monitoring, reporting local weather conditions, water development projects, natural resource education, and other natural resource related activities of value to the community. The MCD assisted other entities or Conservation Districts in providing similar activities. Participation in certain technical training activities and workshops were usually considered part of operations.

On a cost basis, the District Manager and Resource Specialist (RS) worked on independent projects and were responsible for approximately 99% of operations activities. The Firewise Title III Coordinator's duties comprised 1% of operations activities based on time.

- 70% of total salary and wages were for operations activities.
- Salary and wages for operations duties accounted for 50% of total operations expenditures and 37% of total MCD expenditures.
- Non-payroll operations expenses, such as consulting, capital equipment, supplies, mileage, and travel accounted for 50% of total operations expenditures.

Cooperator Assistance:

In FY 18 there were (5) NRCS conservation contracts incorporating various certified practices that were either completed or remain active in MCD.

- There was (1) NRCS conservation contract completed and (4) NRCS conservation contracts that remain active in FY18 totaling \$69,092.37. Prescribed Grazing practices were paid on 14,343 acres as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (2014 Farm Bill) totaling \$52,333.37.
- \$2,763 for Cropland Annual Payment and \$13,996 for Rangeland Annual Payment was paid under the Conservation Stewardship Program (2014 Farm Bill).
- MCD staff contributed in-kind support to the WY G&F Non-game division for annual Black-footed ferret trapping surveys at the Meeteetse reintroduction site for 3 days in the fall of 2017.
- MCD provided detailed maps containing sage-grouse location data to a landowner in the Big Horn Basin as requested.

- MCD staff utilized a newly purchased Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to provide photo and video footage for a neighboring conservation district to help assist in project planning and development under the Emergency Watershed Protection program.
- MCD staff also assisted a neighboring conservation district with baseline water quality sampling efforts.
- MCD became involved with WY G&F in planning for a major fence modification project in the district in order to mitigate brucellosis concerns due to interactions between elk and livestock.
- Staff assisted landowners in monitoring their properties for nuisance and predatory wildlife using game cameras.

MCD plans to continue its efforts in helping partnering agencies and producers implement adaptive management and cooperative rangeland management.

Education:

Youth Education:

- MCD staff met with the local FFA students at the Meeteetse Schools to assist with GPS function and operation.

Community Education:

- The District continued to provide educational information regarding natural resource issues on the MCD website.
- In addition to the District's website as an educational outreach tool, the MCD continued its publication of the "Trail News" and distributed it via its website, by email, and as free hard copies at local businesses. The electronic version of "Trail News" is also sent to the other Wyoming conservation districts, as well as to local, state, and federal government entities. In FY 18 MCD developed its Facebook page to further expand educational outreach and advertising.
- MCD is in the process of converting an empty lot located next to the office building into an outdoor educational demonstration garden displaying native rangeland grasses, forbs and shrubs for community and student education.
- MCD hosted a Fall Ranching Seminar featuring presentations from UW Extension educators for local producers and landowners, which included topics regarding Larkspur Poisoning, Cow Size and Range Conditions, Alfalfa Weevil, and Predator Survey.

Elected Officials and Government Agencies Education:

It has been obvious that many County Commissioners and state legislators are in need of direct contact and information from local folks who use and rely on natural resources. The MCD continued to provide information on an ongoing basis to local and State governmental entities as well as to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, helping to keep the Delegation one of the best informed, responsive, engaged, and effective at addressing local needs.

- MCD presented its FY 17 Annual Report summary to WY legislators in December of FY 18 in Worland.
- MCD submitted letters to legislators requesting support of action to improve federal management for feral horses and burros.
- MCD submitted comment letters to the BLM Worland Field Office pertaining to the Scoping Statement for the proposed Population Management Action in the Fifteenmile Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Firewise Title III:

The Park County Firewise program was initiated in 2011 from a USDA Forest Service Title III Firewise Communities Grant awarded to the Park County Board of County Commissioners and eventually taken over by MCD. The objectives of the Park County Firewise programs are: to educate, advise, and assist landowners about the problems and solutions related to hazard fuels; fuels mitigation measures and activities; defensible space principles, and also distribute information on Firewise landscaping, as well as Firewise home design and construction.

- MCD Firewise Coordinator (Bernie Spanogle) retired at the end of FY 18, and the duties of the position were transferred to MCD Resource Specialist (Josh Kipley).
- During the winter months much of the Firewise Coordinator's duties were spent preparing the transfer of the Firewise program over to MCD Resource Specialist.
- Monitored the June Creek Fire along the North Fork of the Shoshone River west of Cody, WY.
- Produced and distributed flyers for landowners in the North Fork area.
- Resource Specialist assisted Meeteetse Fire District with a home inspection in the Meeteetse area along the Greybull River west of Meeteetse.

Natural Resource Management and Planning (NRM&P):

The MCD was actively involved in a multitude of natural resource-related issues. Participation included reviewing documents, attending public meetings, submitting formal comments, and keeping MCD cooperators informed of natural resource management and planning issues.

Forest Issues: The MCD actively supported renewing Shoshone National Forest (SNF) grazing permits for operations within the District and its cooperators and permittees. The MCD also has an MOU for joint cooperative monitoring with the SNF. MCD staff attended meetings for the SNF Travel Management Compliance Working Group to continue in collaboration with other committee members in drafting recommendations to the forest supervisor for an improved Travel Management system. The MCD also composed a comment letter on the revised proposed action, SNF Travel Management Plan scoping document to help shape the significant travel management decisions being made.

Sage Grouse: In FY 18 research continued under the joint direction of MCD personnel and professional wildlife consultant, HWA Wildlife Consultants out of Laramie. Field activities for MCD staff were reduced in FY 18 to: retrieving transmitters from the field once sage-grouse expired, and to continue the collection of sage-grouse spatial data for analysis. A Final statistical analysis and report prepared by HWA Wildlife Consulting is available upon request as the study was concluded at the end of 2017. Location information continued to be collected during the 2018 field season with support from WY G&F in an effort to recover costly GPS transmitters that were previously deployed.

Subdivision Reviews: The MCD will continue to review subdivisions when they occur. No subdivision reviews were completed in FY 18.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS): In FY 18 MCD became the first Conservation District in WY to purchase its own drone (UAS) with the expectation of assisting personnel with natural resource data collection and monitoring and project reporting and marketing. By providing a unique and more detailed view of project areas, MCD personnel are able to more effectively and efficiently monitor natural resource issues while expanding project methods and ideas. MCD personnel were required to pass a Knowledge Test administered in Cody to obtain a Remote Pilot certification issued by the FAA. The use of this tool is expected to grow vastly as more applications become apparent.

YU Bench Fence Modification Project: MCD in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began inventorying, assessing and monitoring wildlife crossings along allotment boundaries constructed of woven-wire sheep fence. It is thought that his fence design is inhibiting wildlife movements on YU Bench, which is located northeast of Meeteetse and west of the Big Horn County line. The purpose of the study is to assess wildlife movements through and along stretches of fence, both before and after modification in order to better understand the effects of different fence types on wildlife movements, landscape use and associated behavior.

Networking and Participation in Outside Activities

In FY 18, MCD continued as a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Meeteetse Visitor Center, and American Stewards of Liberty. MCD pays dues for its employees to be members of the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employees' Association (WCDEA).

Steffen was an Area III employee rep and served on the Scholarship Committee for WCDEA.

MCD staff attended the annual NRCS Local Work Group Division 1 meeting in Worland, which is designed for Conservation Districts and the public to prioritize resource concerns as well as the ranking criteria for successfully securing funding as a voluntary participant in Farm Bill programs aimed at resolving those resource concerns. Tracy Renner represented Area III conservation districts at the State Technical Committee meeting in Casper.

MCD staff attended the Little Venus Fire hike up the Greybull River organized by the Wyoming State Forestry Division and Shoshone National Forest, to educate participants in the events that led to the result of several firefighters having to deploy fire shelters in 2006.

MCD staff attended the University of Wyoming Extension "Field Day" at the Powell Research & Extension Center in Powell, WY, which was a tour of the ongoing agricultural research projects and equipment.

MCD staff attended the University of Wyoming Extension soil moisture sensor presentation at the Powell Research & Extension Center in Powell, WY.

MCD staff participated in the Greybull Valley Irrigation District field tour organized by the Wyoming Water Association. The tour discussed GVID operations, and ongoing and upcoming projects for the watershed reservoirs and major diversions.

MCD staff attended the Willwood Dam field tour to learn about the Shoshone River watershed upstream of the Willwood Dam and to identify sources of sediment to the Shoshone River.

Range:

MCD works with the University of Wyoming, and Department of Ecosystem Science and Management in order to help producers predict forage quality and quantity available for livestock based on range and precipitation monitoring at two soil moisture sites. The soil moisture, forage, and precipitation monitoring is an evolving long-term study to acquire baseline data and define the interrelationships between rangeland soil moisture, precipitation, and forage yield.

The Little Buffalo Basin (LBB) site is located on private rangeland seventeen miles southwest of Meeteetse. The Spring Creek (SC) site is located on private rangeland about four miles northwest of Meeteetse. Throughout FY 18, data was collected by an automated, solar-powered logger throughout each day. Periodically, data files were downloaded on site by district personnel and sent to appropriate UW personnel for analysis of the total water saturation of the soil. Precipitation data was collected yearlong, but the sites are too remote to properly monitor snowfall details.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Watershed Planning:

Greybull River Level 1 Watershed Study: In FY 17 the MCD and South Big Horn Conservation Districts were jointly awarded technical and financial support from the Wyoming Water Development Office for a Level I Watershed Study of the Greybull River Watershed. This study continued throughout FY 18 and will evaluate current watershed function and provide baseline information from which the districts can pursue funding for implementation of water related management practices within the drainage. Various public meetings were held at MCD to engage local stakeholders and gather input on specific watershed issues such as irrigation, water supply, etc. The consultant, Woodard & Curran will deliver a final draft report by the end of 2018.

The MCD continued monitoring surface water quality at five sites in the Greybull River watershed consistent with the MCD Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) which was updated in the spring prior to the 2018 season in accordance with updated WDEQ regulations. MCD staff also successfully completed and passed a field audit conducted by a WACD contracted field auditor to meet the needs of the WACD monitoring program and the Credible Data Statute.

MCD staff measured conductivity, pH, temperature, and turbidity and sampled for *E. coli* in accordance with requirements of Wyoming law and WDEQ regulations. The MCD used the “5 in 60” protocol for *E. coli*, collecting a minimum of 5 samples representing separate 24 hour periods within 60 days. In FY 18, MCD began submitting separate samples for testing to the WY Dept. of Agriculture for the Surface Water Collection & Analysis program. MCD also contributed information for the development of the 2018 Watershed Progress Report provided by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) to report on the local, grassroots efforts to restore water quality in Wyoming’s impaired and threatened waterbodies.

Training:

Training (including attendance of educational programs) continued to be of great importance to the MCD.

- MCD staff attended various NACD educational webinars featuring projects and programs led by conservation districts and their collaborators.
- MCD staff attended NRCS webinars focusing on livestock grazing and sage-grouse nesting ecology.
- Josh completed the WACD Water Quality Monitoring Training and Certification Program.
- Steffen completed the requirements for WACD Water Quality Monitoring Program recertification.
- MCD staff attended a Discover Native Plant Workshop in Cody hosted by UW Extension
- MCD staff attended an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle presentation in Worland regarding application of UAVs on the farm and ranch.

Weather:

MCD employs a Davis Instruments Wireless Vantage Pro2 Plus Weather Station in order to continue to collect and log data on a real-time basis in an effort to keep its cooperators up-to-date on local weather conditions. Temperature, wind

speed, barometric pressure, relative humidity, dew point, wind chill, wind direction, UV & solar radiation, and precipitation were parameters collected by the weather station and automatically uploaded to MCD's website as well as the National Weather Service and Citizen Weather Observation Program (CWOP, station #DW0465) using the Davis WeatherLink Network. MCD also submitted Meeteetse precipitation data to the national Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study (CoCoRaHS, #WY-PK-22). Combined with soil moisture information, Meeteetse weather data helped Wyoming's State Climatologist with drought forecasting and reports. Our weather data also helps the National Weather Service in Riverton, Wyoming with "watches and warnings" and forecasting.

Links for information on MCD's weather data are:

www.meeteetse-conservey.net/weather-information/

www.weatherlink.com/user/meeteetsecd

www.wxqa.com

www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=DW0465!Meeteetse&last=120

<https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/mesomap.cgi?state=WY&rawsflag=3>

Website:

The MCD continues to host its website www.meeteetse-conservey.net that went online in 2005, as well as its own Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MeeteetseCD/> that was developed FY18, and through regular updates by staff, continues to be the District's primary communication tools, providing information on:

- Weather, including real-time data from the weather station located at the MCD office
- Current topics and events
- Greybull River Watershed Steering Committee information
- Soil moisture information from the Little Buffalo Basin and Spring Creek stations
- Education
- MCD work and project reports
- Water quality monitoring and related information
- Regulations
- MCD's Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan
- MCD's Goals and Policies
- Links to agencies, regulations, and sites of interest
- Information regarding assistance MCD can provide to the public
- MCD's Annual Report and Plan of Work
- Meeting, conference, and workshop dates that may be of interest to the public
- MCD News/Information, including the latest version of the Trail News
- Fire Information
- Range Management
- NRCS Information

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, MCD respectfully submits the MCD FY 18 Annual Report to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts pursuant to requirements of law and applicable annual and biennium funding requests, and to the United States Department of Agricultural, Natural Resource Conservation Service, in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding.

For the Meeteetse Conservation District Board of Supervisors,

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Timothy J. Morrison, Chairman

DECEMBER 13, 2018

Date