

**Routt County Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
April 14, 2020 8 am**

**Attending:**

Lyn Halliday  
Cam Kuelthau  
Tyler Snyder  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt  
Todd Hagenbuch  
Clinton Whitten  
Baili Foster  
Alyssa Clarida  
Patrick Stanko

**Call to Order:** 8:05am- Lyn

Meeting was noticed on RCCD's website and to email distribution list which included instructions for the public to join the meeting virtually due to the current pandemic and as required by the Sunshine Law.

**Welcome/Introductions:** Lyn

\*Still taking CO-VID19 precautions

\*Future virtual meetings approved, but must still be posted in advance. Thanks to Todd for letting us use his CSU Zoom account (as an ex-officio). He offered to continue using Zoom for future meetings.

\*Continue with messages of hope

**Meeting Business:**

\*Approved 3/17/20 RCCD Board meeting minutes; Nadine 1st, Cam 2<sup>nd</sup>

\*Board of Supervisors, monthly hours & related mileage to be tallied and noted in future meeting minutes. This past month: Lyn 21hrs/0 miles; Tyler 2hrs/0 miles; Kent 8hrs/0 miles; Cam 5hrs/0 miles; Nadine 3hrs/0 miles

**Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President's report:**

\*Lyn reported on the Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils "meeting" she attended on 4/6.

Discussions included the Ecosystem Services Market project being worked on where farmers/ranchers are rewarded financially for carbon sequestration, water quality and quantity benefits, greenhouse gas credits, etc. There was also a good presentation on the Citizens Science Soil Health Project (Boulder).

\*Lyn also attended a webinar on 4/7. A presentation was made on a river restoration project near Kremmling where 5 ranchers came together with CWCB and other funding to improve irrigation diversion procedures and restore stream banks.

\*The Exemption from Audit paperwork was filed with DORA; The election cancellation paperwork was filed with DOLA as was the Annual Report.

\*The SIPA contract was cancelled.

\*The MOU with NRCS that was approved last month has now been mailed to CSCB.

\*There is a Request for Proposals from CACD for the current grant cycle (Lyn emailed to Board earlier in the month).

### Treasurer's Report

\*Cam reported on current finances and invoices.

\*Bootstrap \$2500 to be rec'd this month

\*Doris to update accounting records: \$1100 spent 1<sup>st</sup> qtr; largest expenditures included \$620 LOM, \$300 web hosting; \$1000 Community Grant rec'd

\*Cam prepared a Resolution from last month's vote to formally adopt the Bylaw revisions. This needs signing by all Supervisors; copy to be mailed to Tyler, then signed/scanned & returned to Cam- then distributed to rest for signing for placement in minutes book.

\*RCCD docs and minutes to be consolidated into RCCD Binder and stored on RCCD desk. Kent to prepare binder.

### Nadine

\*April Earth Day cancelled

\*August Routt County Fair Events/other RCCD promotions pending precautions for COVID-19. RCF Board to decide by 5/13/20 if Fair occurs this year or not

\*A printed RCCD brochure is under development, Nadine is using the existing poster at the RCCD office as initial template. Nadine to circulate a draft and get some costs to produce

\*RCCD banner will also be utilized

\*Hay Day, on hold to possibly sometime after 6/30/20, pending CO-VID19 precautions – may consider educational programming via Zoom virtual conferencing

### Projects, Events

#### **1. Soil Health Initiative**

Our Soil Health Initiative as presented at Annual Landowners Meeting, generated 3 requests for soil tests; initial web soil survey data will precede testing. Logistics for the Community grant project were discussed. Clinton and Todd have the equipment for the soil test. Lyn to contact folks who signed up to see if they will use the results to meet a goal and make decisions accordingly. She will then schedule a site visit. Clinton, Todd and whomever else wants to go will meet the landowner onsite and do a composite sample which will then be sent to the lab on ice. Nadine indicated results come quickly (hers was 10 days). Clinton will analyze and help with the development of a plan (e.g. nutrient, manure, crop, etc.). Timing wise, mid-June would be ideal and/or before applying nutrients (May 15 per Tyler). Also biologic activity peaks in June (per Clinton).

#### **2. Equipment purchase/lease & other potential projects - continued discussion**

Lyn spoke to Todd and Sarah H. about their history with this program at RCCD. Sarah indicated the challenges associated with scheduling the equipment, signing it out and in, checking to ensure it was returned in the condition it was received, costs of insurance, maintenance and repair. They had a volunteer mechanic who put in a lot of time. Places to store the equipment is another challenge. The rock picker was most popular. Also had back pack sprayers and a seed drill. Having a staff person would be key to this program's success. Discussion ensued regarding potential partners such as dealerships, CPW, The Nature Conservancy (for lands in conservation easements), Colorado First CD, etc. Board members felt this will take till next year to develop a business plan. Alyssa provided a link to a similar program at the Garfield/Pitkin County CD. Their website includes a number of legal documents that may be of value going forward.

Seed sales: Sarah said the RCCD seed sales program was also very popular and not as hard to manage. They purchased grass/hayseed in bulk and sold it to those who requested it. Clinton pointed out the need to keep seed for only a short period and store it in a cool dry location. Custom seed mixes upon request would be ideal. Volumes hard to predict. NRCS could store to some degree. RCCD program needs to be defined, structured, promoted, priced; suppliers could include Pawnee, Bluff, Buffalo, Granite, Snyder & Counts seed vendors.

Clinton was asked to get some details from North Park CD on how they manage their program.

Note: RCCD is tax exempt however would need to charge sales tax when selling.

The Board agreed that it might be best to start small with seed sales this year and develop a plan for equipment leasing possibly for next year. Both could be promoted parallel with soil health initiatives.

### **NRCS Update & Civil Rights Responsibilities – Clinton**

\*The deadline for EQIP has passed and he has 8 projects, similar to last year. None came in for the CWCB grant irrigation infrastructure project, maybe next year.

\*Wildfire Council Grant rec'd

\*Annual Civil Rights Responsibility Checklist presented - RCCD Board members will need to sign off on these.

\*NRCS office is closed to the public due to CO-VID19

### **CSCB Update - Alyssa**

\*Alyssa congratulated the Board on their first anniversary!

\*Bootstrap report due in June. She will no longer be attending every meeting.

\*She reminded the Board that Tyler and Nadine will have to take Oaths of Office again and file at RCCD office.

\*CSCB is hosting conference calls related to Districts and COVID virus every Tuesday at 2pm.

\*District training from CSCB will take place May 20<sup>th</sup> via Zoom from 9-3.

### **Public Forum**

No public comment.

\*Tabled item: Pending New Policy Book updates/development

\*Next meeting; Tuesday 5/19/20, via Zoom 8 am

**Adjourned:** 10:04am- Lyn