

**Routt County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**July 21, 2020 8 am**

**Attending:**

**Board Members:**

Lyn Halliday  
Tyler Snyder  
Cam Kuelthau  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt

**Partners and Public:**

Clinton Whitten, NRCS  
Jeremy Kline, Rancher  
Jan Gilbert  
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension/At Large  
Patrick Stanko, Community Ag Alliance  
Andy Rossi, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District  
Michelle Stewart, YVSC  
Harvey Goertz, Rancher

**Call to Order:** 8:00 am - Lyn

-Meeting was noticed on RCCD's website and sent to the 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.

-Lyn welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

-The June 16, 2020 RCCD Board Meeting Minutes were approved with one minor correction from Cam on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.

**Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President**

-Lyn reported that she submitted a grant application Yampa Valley Community Foundation for 2021 continuation of comprehensive soil testing and interpretation available to landowners.

-The article she prepared for the Steamboat Pilot and Today newspaper in June went nationwide with local, regional and national support. Responses were received from as far away as New Jersey.

-Lyn suggested reaching out to the Routt County Commissioners to see if there is interest in partnering.

-Lyn provided an update on the IWMP. Assessments were done on 40 diversion structures in 4 river segments. Videos will take the place of physical tours. It was suggested that RCCD aid in helping with best practices.

## Treasurer

-Cam reported that the RCCD Board insurance policy has been renewed

-He has received affirmation from CSCB that Direct Assistance funds will be forthcoming. The second installment of Bootstrap funds were received.

## Partners and Public

-Kent reported on the status of the Wildfire Council which has received a grant recently. He also reported that the recent Cayuse Classic put on by CAA was successful.

-Andy introduced himself as the new UYWCD General Manager and offered to assist as a partner with RCCD on water issues. He emphasized the need for diversion measuring devices and discussed the funding that is available to assist from the UYWCD.

-Michelle introduced herself as new ED of YVSC. She is working on a climate action program and is interested in partnering with RCCD among others.

-Harvey Goertz, a ranching participant in the 2020 soil health initiative, thanked the Board and NRCS for the assistance he received with regard to his conservation objectives and wished to continue to be involved on an ongoing basis.

-Jeremy Kline, also a participating rancher in the soil health initiative indicated he was impressed with the results and recommendations.

-Patrick announced the upcoming Colorado River District hosted State of the Yampa event on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (virtual). He also reported on the Basin Roundtable which is currently updating the IPP list. Lyn to send out link to the appropriate chapters so RCCD Board members can weigh in.

## Projects, Events, Grants

### 1. Soil Health Initiative update

-Clinton summarized the results of the soil tests performed at three ranches. He outlined some of the conservation recommendations as a result of the site visits.

### 2. Event Booths, Brochure, Educational option to HayDay

-Nadine reported that she is still working on the RCCD brochure handout and is hoping to meet with Clinton at the office soon.

### 3. Pasture and Hay Management Workshop

-Todd indicated his team is in R.C. Fair mode and intends to revisit the pasture management workshop in early September.

#### 4. Equipment purchase/lease

-Tyler has done some research on pricing of the no till drill, both new and used, and sent out some details via email. Board members thought it better to purchase new to avoid inheriting issues. The brand, size and transport options of the equipment were discussed at length. He is putting together a business plan including rental costs, etc. and will have a draft for the August Board meeting.

-Jeremy is working on maintenance costs and will have a report at the August Board meeting.

-Cam and Clinton to look into possible funding partners.

#### 5. Seed purchase/resell

-Kent has done some research with local retailers. Elk River Farm and Feed is interested in working with the RCCD board to get this going. Orders can be turned around within a few days. Clinton offered to come up with some viable Routt County mixes so Kent can get an idea of pricing. Cam will send see mix for north Routt.

-Jeremy suggested the seed program could be tied into the no till drill rentals and the Board concurred this to be a good idea. Jeremy offered to store the seed at his ranch along with the drill.

#### 6. Phil Brink symposium

-Lyn received correspondence from Phil Brink, representing the Colorado Cattlemen's and AgWATER network, who is potentially interested in partnering with RCCD and others in the future to put on a soil health symposium.

#### 7. Glen Werner Scholarship

-Jan Gilbert, the only living child of Glen Werner sent along some information about the scholarship program to Lyn which she distributed to the Board. She and Jeremy provided details on how the grant was administrated in the past. The family is willing to continue to donate to the fund, which still has some money in the RCCD account. Potential recipients were found mainly through high school counselors. It was also recommended that 4-H counselors be contacted in the future. Nadine volunteered to work with Jan and Jeremy on continuing this program.

#### Other

Todd reported that Tiffany Carlson from the Routt County Weed Program is interested in talking to the Board about a 200-300 gallon boom weed sprayer for renting out. Weeds were particularly bad this year. Lyn will put Tiffany on the Board agenda next month.

#### **NRCS Update**

-Clinton updated the group on EQIP projects he is currently working on totaling around \$350,000.

Board Member Hours/Miles:

Next Meeting August 18, 2020 8am

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am