

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
May 19, 2020 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt

Partners and Public:

Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension
Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Drew Langel, CSFS
Christa Kline, Rancher
Liz Schnackenberg, USFS
Patrick Stanko, Rancher

Call to Order: 8:05am- Lyn

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

-The April 14, 2020 RCCD Board Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.

Old Business

-Oaths of Office – Nadine and Tyler were reminded to submit their Oaths of Office.

Board Member Reports and Updates

President

-Lyn reported on receiving an email from Longmont/Boulder CD asking for website advice. The District Manager had looked at all CD's websites and chose ours as a model.

-A letter was received by mail from the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety regarding the United Gravel pit in Hayden. It was seeking input on their mine reclamation plan. Lyn called but did not hear back from them.

-Lyn updated the group on the progress of the Integrated Water Management Planning Process. A consultant has been hired to perform a remote review of land use and desktop analysis of stream health; section coordinators to review 45 irrigation structures.

-She attended a recent Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils meeting w/Phil Brink. The meeting was producer centric, discussed potential grants pending, soil data inventories pending, future funding potentially in jeopardy.

-The Board was reminded of upcoming events: Webinars – CSCB partnering May 27; Cattlemen’s June 11; District Training – CSCB May 20.

-Lyn has reached out to Katy Winsler the Routt County Planning Director. Their scheduled meeting to discuss the Master Plan update has been postponed due to COVID.

-Lyn went over a current grant opportunity from CSCB matching grants for 2021 (up to \$25,000)– due July 17.

Treasurer

-Cam updated the Board on current financials. Income past year reported @ \$3600; expenses reported @ \$2500; \$1100 retained

-Bootstrap and Annual Report funds from CSCB forthcoming in August.

Wildfire Council and Community Ag Alliance

-Kent provided an update on the BLM grant to the Wildfire Council. Progress has slowed due to COVID.

-Kent reported that Ag Alliance sales are up, the new office is now in place, and Ag week has been cancelled due to COVID.

Booth Events

-Nadine reported that portions of the Routt County Fair and other events are all being cancelled or are in limbo due to the virus.

-She will continue to work on developing a handout using an outdated poster as a template. Christa suggested that often local printers will reduce cost or donate printing services to non-profits.

NRCS

Clinton reported he has 45 irrigation diversion projects pending. Still no public drop-ins @ NRCS office, due to CO-VID19; daily updates available via phone & USDA conference calls.

Other

-Patrick informed everyone of an upcoming State of the River event by Mesa State on Wednesday at 6pm. He will forward registration information.

-Todd reported that face-to-face programming at CSU Extension will be starting up again. He will be exploring potential topics for a virtual HayDay and will forward.

-Liz discussed some upcoming opportunities related to ag.

Soil Health Initiative

-The soil samples have been collected at the 3 ranches by Baili, Kaitlin and Clinton and a lab selected (WoodsEnd). A good cross section of the County was represented, one ranch on CR 44 by Sleeping Giant; one in Stagecoach; and one north of Hayden. Lyn provided a down payment for the lab testing on her debit card at the maximum level allowed to board members (\$250). She requested approval by

the Board to pay the balance (\$350). These are all covered by the local grant we received. A motion to approve the additional payment was made by Cam with a second from Kent, approved unanimously.

Equipment Rental/lease

-Jeremy and Christa Kline have generously offered to host and maintain a drill seeder at their ranch. Board members to reach out to them this upcoming month. Amy Camilletti emailed to indicate an interest.

-Garfield/Pitkin County CD programs provide some examples including lease agreements. They lease a rock picker, seed drill and back pack sprayers. They also have a custom seed mix sale program.

Seed Purchase/Resell

-Per the last Board meeting, Lyn contacted Frank Counts at Snyder and Counts Feed and Seed in Craig. He does not offer wholesale since his margin is very low (6-7%) and he sells without much markup. Same with herbicides. His competition is Frontier Station, MJK, and Elk River Feed. He recalls "old days" when Sam Haslem bought bulk seed for re-sale. Same issue with herbicides(i.e. not much markup). Clinton learned that North Park CD uses Pawnee Buttes seed currently which is out of our area. They switch seed companies to keep competitive. Need to use/order custom mixes. Kent to contact Elk River Farm and Feed.

-There was discussion on possibly obtaining a grant to subsidize cost to landowners. Buy at normal price then resell at lower price. Todd cautioned that using a grant to subsidize sales would need to be disclosed and there may be concerns about undercutting local suppliers. In the past the district offered one stop shopping with obtaining a NRCS custom seed mix, the district making the order.

Reg 85

Patrick brought up the work being done on the front range regarding how ag is working on best practices for nutrient reduction to avoid being regulated by the CDPHE. Lyn has been reporting the progress of Reg 85 at the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group meetings and went over the time line for this process. She indicated the UY Watershed Plan addresses some of the potential stressors in our 5 sub basins as well as possible BMPs. She will discuss further how we might be able to develop west slope best practices and demonstrate how these could be implemented.

Board of Supervisors, monthly hours & related mileage: to be tallied and noted in future meeting minutes. This past month: Lyn 30hrs/0miles; Tyler 0hrs/0miles; Kent 6hrs/0miles; Cam 4.5hrs/0miles; Nadine 2hrs/0miles

-Next Board meeting; Tuesday 6/16/20, via Zoom @ 8 am

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am by Lyn.