

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
October 20, 2020 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt
Tyler Snyder
Jeremy Kline

Partners and Public:

Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension
Baili Foster, NRCS
Patrick Stanko, CAA
Billy Mitzelfeld
Harvey Goertz

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Lyn and a quorum established.

- The 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 September Board Meeting Minutes will be forthcoming.

Board Member Reports and Updates

President

Lyn reported as follows:

- 1) The grant was received from Yampa Valley Community Foundation for \$1,500 to cover the cost of performing comprehensive soil testing as we continue our Soil Health Initiative in 2021. Lyn sent them a thank you letter.
- 2) A small ask from the Steamboat Springs Community Support Grant program was submitted Oct. 5th to pay for a Zoom account and some online Word Press training. An interview is scheduled on November 12th at 11:00.

3) As reported at previous meetings, Lyn discussed progress on the Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils project where RCCD and the Upper Yampa Watershed Group (UYWG) could potentially participate as one of four demonstration projects in the State to adapt the S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources) program, create ag BMPs, and implement for 3 years. The program was discussed in some detail including how RCCD would be involved.

4) The Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District president has again suggested that RCCD and/or the UYWG come in with a grant proposal for a water or forest health-related project (the no-till seed drill would not be eligible) to include in their 2021 budget. After discussing options with partners, Lyn sent a draft concept paper with RCCD potentially partnering with the UYWG for a \$30,000 /yr project over 2 years (a copy was also sent to the Board). The proposal would address protection of source water in the subbasin above the Stagecoach Reservoir and would build on the findings of the recent analysis done for the UYWG regarding sediment and nutrient loading, as well as IWMP work. A discussion ensued.

Treasurer

-Cam presented the quarterly financials and a draft 2021 budget. Lyn requested that we begin to track expenses that are tied to grants to meet future reporting requirements. Cam indicated that he will need Board feedback on the budget by next month's meeting so the final budget can be prepared and approved at the December meeting and submitted to DOLA in January as required.

Projects, Events, Grants

Equipment purchase/lease and custom Seed Program

-Tyler provided pricing on both new and used no-till seed drills. Specifications as well as the pros and cons of different scenarios were discussed. Rental pricing was researched and reported by Tyler and Jeremy. Costs of maintenance / parts were estimated. Nadine suggested that the Board undertake a survey to find out how many people would sign up.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding potential funding. Lyn inquired of Kent if the CAA Board was interested in getting involved as had been mentioned by Michele at last month's meeting. The topic did not come up at the CAA board meeting which are closed to only board members. Todd suggested the possibility of a co-op approach where potential users could donate and be assured of a slot in the calendar. Also Taylor Grazing Act funds were mentioned. The goal is to have it available in 2021.

Soil Health Initiative

A discussion ensued regarding retesting of soils on the 3 existing demonstration ranches as well as how we will solicit new participants in 2021.

Ag Fall Gathering at Tread of Pioneers

CAA is putting on this event on Oct. 27th and RCCD will have part of a display table. Kent to attend and bring the table top display.

Glen Werner Scholarship

-Jeremy will be meeting with the family soon to discuss contributions going forward.

Board Application Criteria

As a result of a recent application for a Board seat, Board members have requested that we establish criteria and have an application/interview process. Alyssa from CSCB had some suggestions which were circulated in the Board packet. Kent also suggested we look at the CAA criteria. A discussion took place regarding what might be considered as criteria. A draft will be prepared for further discussion at the next meeting.

NRCS Update

-Baili reported on the work they are doing relative to the forest health program. She asked everyone to take the survey (link sent via email) that will help prioritize what areas of the County that need the most attention.

Board Member Hours/Miles:

Nadine 7 hrs; Cam 14 hrs; Lyn 48 hrs; Kent 5 hrs; Tyler 4 hrs; Jeremy 1 hr.

Next RCCD Board Meeting November 17, 2020 8am

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am