

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 17, 2020 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt
Jeremy Kline

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitton, NRCS
Baili Foster, NRCS
Michele Meyer, CAA
Megan Knott, CO Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)

Call to Order:

-The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by Lyn and a quorum established.

-The meeting was noticed as required by the Sunshine Law 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.

-Lyn welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

-The September 15, 2020 & October 20, 2020 RCCD Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Nadine and second by Kent.

CCALT Presentation: Circle Bar Ranch Conservation Easement Amendment Proposal

Megan Knott, Director of Stewardship from CCALT presented the proposed amendment. She discussed the history of Yampa Valley Land Trust merging with CCALT and why there was a need to amend the easement relative to building size trades. The Board discussed pros and cons and on a motion by Cam and second by Nadine, support of the request by RCCD was approved.

Board Member Reports and Updates

President

Lyn reported as follows:

- 1) An interview for the small grant that RCCD requested from the Steamboat Springs Community Support Grant program took place last Thursday and went well.
- 2) 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. A MOU will be forthcoming.

Treasurer

-Cam presented a draft 2021 budget. Discussion was held line-by-budget line item and Board members suggested revisions. A final draft will be provided by Cam at next month's meeting.

Discussion of Board Applicant Criteria

A draft application form was circulated previous to the meeting and was discussed. Michele shared the format used by CCA. Nadine indicated she saw some historic application materials when in the RCCD office recently. It was decided that the matter be tabled to consider the additional materials.

Projects, Events, Grants

Handout for Events

Nadine provided research on the development and printing of a brochure. She discussed pricing for printing locally. The search will continue for the previous RCCD brochure.

Equipment purchase/lease and custom Seed Program

- Kent and Michele reported that CAA is interested in partnering on a no till drill, but cautious about helping with any funding.
- Jeremy suggested that it might be feasible to purchase and rent out a weed sprayer which would be much less of an investment. A discussion took place on the type of sprayer and cost. Board members felt that Tiffany from the County weed control department should be consulted regarding need/logistics, etc.
- Board members felt it would be important to conduct a survey on how much interest there is to rent a no till drill and/or weed sprayer. Clinton to work on the survey.

Soil Health Initiative

Lyn has started a list of interested ag producers for next spring/summer soil testing and technical assistance and suggested that anyone who knows a possible participant should contact her.

Glen Werner Scholarship

-Jeremy is close to finalizing family contributions. Next year's budget will reflect \$1,500, however, some of the funds may be carried over. There is currently \$554 in the account per Cam.

NRCS Update

-Clinton reported on the results of the survey regarding prioritizing areas for the forestry program. The Steamboat/Oak Creek area ranked first, then North Routt, then Stagecoach.

Next RCCD Board Meeting December 15, 2020 @ 8am

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.