

**Routt County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**December 15, 2020 8 am**

**Attending:**

**Board Members:**

Lyn Halliday  
Cam Kuelthau  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt  
Tyler Snyder

**Partners and Public:**

Clinton Whitton, NRCS  
Baili Foster, NRCS  
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension ex-officio  
Patrick Stanko, CAA  
Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Control

**Call to Order:**

-The meeting was called to order at 8:06 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

The November 17, 2020 RCCD Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Nadine and second by Kent.

**Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President**

Lyn reported as follows:

1. Steamboat Springs Community Support Program grant was approved. She has created a Zoom account for RCCD which we are meeting with today.
2. Annual report due 2/15/21 to receive \$500 from CSCB.
3. IWMP Committee meeting tomorrow will discuss, among other topics, CD's role. Lyn asked if RCCD Board members would be interested in playing a role in future projects. Board members agreed this would be good for the District and would need to be commensurate with available resources.
4. If we are going to conduct our Annual Landowners Meeting in Feb 2021, similar to last year, we need to start planning. Some ideas for the agenda were: it will need to be virtual; keep it reasonably short e.g. 2 hours; possibly have a panel discussion with experts and local ag

producers covering our three primary objectives – soil, water, forestry/rangeland; have a Q& A following panel; include a survey of interest and/or advertise ahead of time and ask what interest is out there; consider a process similar to the sticky note one we used last year via Zoom (Todd to check into Zoom options).

5. Lyn prepared the required annual submittals for Workers Compensation Exclusion (department of Labor) and related Resolution which had been sent out in the Board packet last week. On a motion by Cam and second by Tyler the resolution was approved as presented.

#### Treasurer

-Cam reported on the current financials: \$19,995 in bank, expenses \$162, interest \$3.

#### **2021 Budget**

Cam provided a final budget based on discussions at previous Board meetings. He posted the budget meeting notice in the required three locations, and it has also been posted on our website and through email distribution. The 2021 budget and related required documents were approved unanimously on a motion by Tyler and second by Kent. Cam was thanked by the Board for a great job on the budget.

#### **Discussion of Board Applicant Criteria**

Due to COVID, Nadine has not been able to access the RCCD office files. Cam suggested that Board members be responsible for recruiting /sponsoring new Board members. This matter was tabled for the time being.

Lyn was asked to send out the Board member term expirations.

#### **Projects, Events, Grants**

##### Soil Health Initiative

Lyn provided a summary update of three soil/water related projects she is working on. It is exciting that these are coming together.

1) CO Collaborative for Healthy Soils (CCHS) has selected RCCD as one of 4 statewide for a pilot project related to Ag Best Practices and S.T.A.R (Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources). Have been meeting with them and was asked to provide assistance to the science sub-committee to develop best practices for our region. The program is meant to be simple, provide a short field form for ag producers to fill out to obtain points, then receive a STAR designation (1 star, 2 stars, up to 4). They will receive funding to implement BMPs, recognition and signage, etc. This is a 4 year program. She had sent a draft brochure to Board members last week in the meeting packet. There is also a new PRE-Pilot being planned to start in 2021 with one producer here, and then expand to up to 10 producers in 2022. Funding from 319 EPA nonpoint source money, Gates Family Foundation, and other donations. Money will be provided to the District and to the participating producer.

Lyn had circulated in the meeting packet last week a draft MOU that CCHS prepared and she has edited and asked if the Board was interested in proceeding. Members responded affirmatively. Cam to provide a “legal” review of the MOU, then Lyn to sign.

2) Following findings from Upper Yampa Watershed Group’s USGS study of streamflow and sediment and nutrient loading, concern about anomalies in headwaters above Stagecoach Reservoir was raised as well as the determination that the reservoir water quality shows it is ripe for eutrophication and additional cyanobacteria growth. Lyn, as UYWG Coordinator, has discussed these with the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and submitted a concept paper on source water protection options that would include further investigation as well as implementation of best practices on ag and forest land up-basin. A collaborative group is scheduled to meet in January to further define needs, methods, and funding and will consist of UYWCD, UYWG, RCCD, NRCS, CO AgWater Alliance (CAWA), CCHS, USFS, CO Forest Service, etc. Lyn asked if Board members were interested in participating. The response was a unanimous “yes” within the capability of available resources.

3) Colorado AgWater Alliance (CAWA) has approached RCCD to identify an irrigated hay producer who would be willing to participate in a CSU edge of field water quality sampling (N&P) pilot program (CAWA letter circulated in meeting packet last week). Results would be mostly anonymous but used for education. Funding from 319 money, applying in 2021 to start 2022. This is a statewide project in response to Reg. 85. Todd was also approached and believes he has a willing participant. CAWA would like RCCD to be a partner in the program and has asked for a letter of support from RCCD, which Board members supported.

#### Equipment purchase/lease and custom Seed Program

-Tiffany Carlson led a lengthy discussion on weed sprayers, applicators responsibilities, education needed, regulations for rinse water, and CD programs in other regions. The Board discussed opportunities for RCCD purchasing and leasing out a weed sprayer. There was some concern about liability. Weld County’s program might offer some ideas. Todd is working on some videos to help with education. Jeremy had done some research on pricing which he estimates around \$5,000.

#### Glen Werner Scholarship

-Jeremy had emailed Lyn that the family is offering to increase the amount of annual contribution to \$1,500.

#### NRCS Update

-Clinton reported on 12-13 EQIP project applications so far. Deadline is Jan.8<sup>th</sup>. No forestry projects yet, mostly irrigation including a large grant application for Gibraltar Ditch in Hayden.

-Next RCCD Board Meeting January 19, 2021 @ 8am

**Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.