

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

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Billy Mitzelfeld
Michele Meyer, CAA

Call to Order:

-The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Lyn.

-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 July 21, 2020 and August 18, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.

Board Member Reports and Updates

President

Lyn reported as follows:

1) The Ag Water Update Workshop venue and time has changed. It will be at the Hayden Fairgrounds on Tuesday, Sept 29 at 5:30 (was to be at Carpenter Ranch BBQ 12:30 with a tour of the Walker ditch improvements). Ten people will be allowed to attend in person. Nadine requested that she be added to attendees. Others can RSVP to attend via Zoom. Lyn indicated we would have an opportunity the end of the meeting to provide an RCCD update. It was decided by Board members that Lyn will prepare a few power point slides and provide to Michele so a Board member can do an infomercial for RCCD.

2) DOLA filing of the Supervisor list was due September 1st. Lyn submitted it and it was accepted.

3) Lyn reminded the Board that the North Platte/White/Yampa Watershed Association meeting will be held on Sept. 18th at 10am – 3pm. Erin Light and Brian Romig from the Division of Water Resources will be the lunch speakers re: diversion reporting/recording. She discussed the following agenda items for this meeting and asked for Board input:

- 1) CACD policy book 2020 changes (links sent out in the Board packet),
- 2) Policy resolutions presented to CACD – do we have any for this year?
- 3) Nominations for CSCB Board rep (Karin Utterback-Norman term limited),
- 4) WA officers to be elected, president vacancy, any interest?
- 5) River trailer or other collaborative projects?

4) Lyn attended a number of the Colorado Water Congress annual meeting sessions over the past few weeks. There were good presentations on forest health from Rocky Mountain Restoration Institute; drought and climate change from NOAA; etc.

5) RC master plan update – Lyn had a phone conference with the Routt County Planning Director Kristy Winser on Aug 18. The update is on hold for now due to budget cuts. Kristy indicated an interest in having conservation issues brought before the Planning Commission.

6) Todd Hagenbugh email – the annual cycle for City of Steamboat Springs Community Support Grants is upon us, applications due Oct. 5th. The Board discussed options. Michele provided clarifications on maximums and applications in the past.

7) The Draft report on the Streamflow and Nutrient and Sediment Loading Analysis from USGS to Upper Yampa Watershed Group is now out for review and comment. If anyone is interested in commenting please let Lyn know.

8) Lyn reported on attending the CO River District session regarding \$16 million spent by a Manhattan hedge fund in the Grand Junction area to purchase ag land with senior water rights.

9) Lyn reported on the CO Collaborative for Healthy Soils meeting on 9/10/20. She sent their annual report out to the Board in the packet. Topics discussed included funding proposals, the STAR program that recognizes ag producers for implementing best practices, low cost soil health testing. The potential for funding a demonstration project with Walton Family Foundation and 319 funding may be a good match for us. Lyn to pursue.

10) Lyn mentioned that the BRT and CWCB continue to work on the Demand Management concept. The Y/W/G Basin Roundtable has recommended a draft Demand Management Statement listing key principals. Billy is on the Big River subcommittee and reported on the process.

Treasurer

-Cam reported on the status of the finances. The CSCB Direct Assistant funds were received and were more than expected \$7,077. He will be preparing a third quarter summary for review by the Board and used to formulate next year's budget.

Wildfire Council

-Clinton and Kent reported on minutes received from the July meeting - next meeting in October.

Community Ag Alliance

-Michele and Kent reported on the work being done on outreach for the Roundtable and with CSU regarding water rights. They will be preparing an insert for the County Treasurer to include with the tax bill. She has prepared a visitor education piece suggesting how best to respect rural Routt County (Lyn sent this out previously with the Board packet).

-Kent suggested that a wildland fire cautionary notice be included in the tax notice.

Projects, Events, Grants

Equipment purchase/lease and custom Seed Program

-The Board discussed possible funding sources to purchase a new no-till seed drill and the need for a business plan. The drill will cost around \$30,000. Michele indicated the CAA Board may be interested in getting involved and that she would look into RCCD presenting a concept paper at their October Board meeting. Kent to prepare talking points: budget details, community impact, demonstration of need, partners, etc. Clinton to share erosion photos.

Glen Werner Scholarship

-Nadine is waiting to hear back from the family on increasing the scholarship amount.

NRCS Update

-Clinton has received a number of reclamation project requests, mainly from oil and gas abandonments. He will be distributing a post card advertising the NRCS forest health program early next year. He has been meeting with the Sanctuary development regarding forestry practices, a priority area due to it being in the Fish Creek Basin where the City of Steamboat gets its water. The State office has been pressuring the local office for reportable work (EQIP, CRP, etc.).

Board Seat Request

-A request for a Board seat was received from Billy Mitzelfeld. Billy went over his resume and reasons for wanting to join the Board.

Board Member Hours/Miles:

Nadine, 3 hrs; Cam 4 hrs; Lyn 32 hrs.

Next RCCD Board Meeting October 20, 2020 8am

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am