

**Routt County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**May 18, 2021 8 am**

**Attending:**

**Board Members:**

Lyn Halliday  
Cam Kuelthau  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt  
Jeremy Kline

**Partners and Public:**

Clinton Whitten, NRCS  
Patrick Stanko, Community Ag Alliance  
Harvey Goertz, rancher

**I. 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.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The March 16, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Jeremy.

**III. Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President**

Lyn reported as follows:

1. STAR pilot program update: Baili and Lyn met with Colby at 2 Elk Ranch in Hayden on May 5<sup>th</sup> and took soil samples. Lab results were used to come up with a set of resource conservation recommendations including a seed mix that would improve soil health and begin to meet the goals of the rancher. She verified receipt of \$1,000 from the STAR program for RCCD to use as needed.

There has been quite a bit of interest in our soil health initiative and Clinton and Baili have been doing soil sampling on a number of ranches. Harvey reported improvements since his tests last spring that resulted in adding best management practices that have shown improvement in growth. Kent also reported the Triple Sticks and Rattlesnake Ranches were tested the first week of May. These samples will provide a good baseline and help us to get more people interested in participating.

2. Lyn announced approval of the Taylor Grazing Act grant application by Routt County to purchase the weed sprayer. She went over the recommendations by the Weed Board including the purchase of a boomless sprayer to reduce maintenance needs and a suggestion to purchase the sprayer locally at Frontier Station in Craig.
3. Lyn will be going to the Legacy ranch this morning to look at the low cost soil moisture sensors that have been developed by CSU.
4. House Bill 1181 has passed the Senate Natural Resource and Ag Committee
5. SAM registration was renewed.
6. Lyn was asked to visit a landowners site across from the new school on HWY 40 to look at an erosion/sedimentation issue. Lyn met with the Construction manager and they discussed some potential improvements to erosion control.
6. Alyssa at CSCB has resigned to go to Colorado West Land Trust.
7. The Upper Yampa Watershed Group continues to be in discussion about a Source Water Protection Project in the sub-watershed above Stagecoach Reservoir.
8. The Bear River is already on call due to low flows.

#### Treasurer

1. Cam reported on the current financials.

#### Kent

Kent reported on the CAA, Wildfire Council webinar series, and Weed Board.

#### Nadine

Nadine has prepared two versions of a draft brochure which were sent to the Board for review. The Board members endorsed them and preferred the one with the background. Lyn to provide the printer with our logo. Nadine was authorized to have 200 copies printed at a cost of less than \$300.

#### **IV. Business**

1. Board candidate criteria

Cam prepared a revised draft which was sent to the Board for review. This was approved on a motion by Cam and second by Nadine and will be posted on our website.

2. 3-way agreement with NRCS & CSCB

On a motion by Lyn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nadine, the Board approved the newly revised Agreement.

#### **V. Projects, Events, Grants**

1. Weed sprayer purchase

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the purchase of the weed sprayer (type and location) as well as the logistics of scheduling, overseeing and maintaining the equipment, and training which Jeremy has agreed to do at his ranch. How much to charge, options for receiving payment and whether to require a security deposit were also discussed. Jeremy to get a quote from Frontier. A punch list of considerations will be developed for further decision making. Lyn asked Jeremy to keep track of his hours for the in-kind contribution for the grant.

#### **VI. NRCS update**

1. Clinton reported on the status of projects NRCS is working on: 2 urban ag; 1 rangeland improvements; 3 irrigation improvements; and 1 stream restoration in Trout Creek. He has received more applications than funding and is requesting additional funds.

2. Clinton announced a new conservation planning initiative at the state level which will require a full assessment of the operation, most of which he is already doing here.

2. Civil rights responsibilities

Clinton provided a document that all Board members are required to sign. It was decided this would be accomplished at our June meeting.

## **VII. Public Portion**

No public comments were made.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting June 15, 2021 @ 8am. Due to the NRCS offices now being open for business (COVID restrictions lifted), we will have our June meeting in person! Lyn will also coordinate with Clinton to have a Zoom option.

**Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am on a motion by Nadine and second from Jeremy.