

**Routt County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**In Person and Virtual Meeting**  
**June 15, 2021 8 am**

**Attending:**

**Board Members:**

Lyn Halliday  
Cam Kuelthau  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt  
Tyler Snyder (via Zoom)

**Partners and Public:**

Clinton Whitten, NRCS  
Todd Hagenbugh, CSU Extension  
Billy Mitzelfeld (via Zoom)

**I. Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 8:05 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. It is exciting to see people in person! (who are fully vaccinated).

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The May 18, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.

**III. Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President**

Lyn reported as follows:

1. Baili is working with Soroco High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) on the upcoming Range Management Field Day to be held 9:30 – 3:00 on July 20<sup>th</sup> and has asked Lyn to bring up the possibility of RCCD sponsoring the event. Kent reported that this group has been recognized nationally and is a "home run group". RCCD Board members voiced strong support of youth ag programs and after discussion, unanimously passed a motion by Kent with a second from Cam to support this event up to \$500, instructing Lyn to work with Baili to determine next steps. Lyn suggested that we promote the scholarship program if possible.
2. Lyn recently had the opportunity to preview the newly developed low-cost soil moisture probes that CSU Ag folks in Ft. Collins have developed. The probes can be installed at different soil depths and provide a read out to your smart phone. This might be something that RCCD can

sell, and the CSU representative was very supportive of an initiative such as that. At the very least we can put the information on our website.

3. Lyn reported on the official release of the USGS Nutrient and Sediment Loading Analysis commissioned by the Upper Yampa Watershed Group (which RCCD has an MOU with). It is hopeful that we can get ahead of the nutrient and algae issues prior to them becoming a worse problem.

#### Treasurer

1. Cam reported on current bank balance and expenditures since the last meeting which included the printing of the RCCD brochure and payment for soil sample lab analysis and shipping
2. Cam is in the process of renewing the D&O Insurance Policy for the Board. He is also looking into property insurance for the weed sprayer we are planning on purchasing.

#### Kent

1. Kent reported on Community Ag Alliance activities which have been focused mainly on their local food market and water workshops.
2. The Wildfire Council has been working mainly on education and defensible space with specific focus on HOAs. There will be a mastication treatment field tour on July 9th.

#### Clinton

1. Clinton reported on the IWMP Ag Infrastructure assessment that was recently completed and upcoming neighborhood meetings. The new coordinator has been hired – Jeff Clinke.

#### Todd

1. Todd reported that White top is mostly over and he is now working on grasshopper management which is seeing early resurgence exacerbated by the drought.
2. The group discussed the topic on everyone's mind which is the extreme drought which is already drastically affecting irrigation, stock ponds and stream and river flows.
3. Todd will be incorporating the Guide to Rural Living document into the Board of Realtors materials.

### **IV. Business**

#### 1. New brochure

Nadine presented 300 copies of the new RCCD brochure she prepared. The Board members thought they looked great and a range of opportunities to distribute them were discussed.

#### 2. Soil Health Initiative Update

There has been quite a bit of interest in the soil health initiative and related requests for soil testing. Clinton, Baili, Lyn and Kent have been on numerous ranches this past spring and samples have been sent to Midwest labs. Each field has been different and has been evaluated on a case-by-case basis. We are now in the process of reporting back to the ranchers and working with them on their conservation objectives, especially nutrient management plans through NRCS.

Lyn updated the Board on the STAR program. One of the fields at 2 Elk Ranch was selected for the pre-pilot program and a number of soils samples were taken there. There was an absence of microbial activity and a lot of compaction. The rancher's main objectives were to create diverse crop forage without tilling or using chemicals and bring back the soil health that has degraded over the years. Using the soil test results, Baili came up with a unique seed mix. Due to dry conditions, however, planting will not be able to take place until Fall. STAR will finance implementation of Best Practices. Recent legislation has passed that will provide funding for conservation districts and ag producers to improve soil health state wide.

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

### **1. Weed sprayer purchase**

As requested at the last board meeting, Lyn had prepared and distributed a logistics list of things that needed to be decided prior to rolling out the weed sprayer lease project. Clinton has been receiving a lot of requests for weed sprayers. There was a lengthy discussion about procedures, forms, liability, scheduling, maintenance, etc. Jeremy had indicated to Lyn that the unit we were hoping to purchase is discontinued with possible options being more expensive. The following action items were itemized with the goal of purchasing the sprayer and being ready to lease in September:

- Lyn to request that Jeremy and Tyler work with Frontier Services to present comparable units and quotes prior to the next meeting;
- Cam will work on forms (Lyn to send the ones Nadine found in the RCCD files);
- Jeremy to attend next meeting, have a special earlier meeting.

### **2. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship**

Nadine had found some paperwork in the files regarding an Agreement between RCCD and the family as well as an invoice letter. In the interested of reinstating this project next year, Lyn was tasked with updating the agreement and sending it to Jeremy. Once signed, an invoice can be sent to the family.

## **VI. NRCS update**

1. Clinton reported on a drought sign up announced last week. The Conservation Incentive Contract is similar to EQIP with payment rates that are less concrete. A conservation plan is still needed.
2. The Conservation Reserve Program deadline is July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Clinton is working with Kaitlin on the West Fork of the Elkhead Creek to address riparian restoration in areas that have been over grazed and incised. They are planning to use low tech methods and fencing out cattle, as well as beaver dams and willow planting.

## **VII. Public Portion**

No public comments were made.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will move to July 13, 2021 @ 8am since July 20<sup>th</sup> is a conflict with the Soroco High School event.

**Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am on a motion by Nadine and second from Kent.