

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
In Person and Virtual Meeting
July 13, 2021 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

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

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Ken Brenner, UYWCD

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:07 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 June 15, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Cam.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

1. Lyn announced the receipt of \$15,000 as a result of the passing of CO Senate Bill 21-234 which created a one-time payment to all conservation districts in the State. The bill creates the agriculture and drought resiliency fund, and directs the state treasurer to transfer \$3 million from the general fund to the fund, and appropriates the money from the fund to the Department of Agriculture, which will use the fund to engage in activities that promote the ability of the state to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to any event, trend, or climatological disturbance related to drought or climate. Lyn has called CSCB and other CD's and the general consensus is that we have one year to spend the money and there is a lot of flexibility in what it can be spent on including adding capacity (staff / operations), leveraging the money for other grant offerings, soil health initiatives, etc.

A discussion ensued regarding ideas to spend the money. Lyn suggested we hire a part time staff with a job description that included grant writing to leverage the money to sustain the

position as well as provide office manager and outreach duties. Other ideas were to explore sharing an employee with CAA as has been previously discussed.

2. Lyn reported that we will also be receiving a \$6,700 annual payment from the CSCB Direct Assistance program.

3. Lyn reported on the proposal that the Watershed Group continues to work on relative to protecting water quality in the watershed above Stagecoach Reservoir. A WG member is planning to present this proposal to the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Board at their upcoming meeting next week to seek interest in funding the project. There will need to be multiple funding sources.

Ken Brenner discussed the importance of this project and how it might tie in to a US Senate bill currently being drafted by Senator Bennett as part of the Nation-wide Infrastructure Proposal. This could include multi-year collaborative projects focusing on watershed and rangeland health. He suggested the RCCD Board consider drafting a letter to the UYWCD supporting the Watershed Group's proposal.

RCCD Board members questioned how the project would unfold, would it explore sources of what is causing excessive algal blooms, some of which are toxic cyanobacteria? Or would it come up with ways to try to mitigate the problem? Lyn attempted to explain the process, gathering a stakeholder group to focus on what is contributing to the problem, then working with landowners and others on a strictly voluntary basis to try to come up with implementation projects. One of the drivers is that we don't want to see the reservoir closed as was the case last summer at Steamboat Lake. She suggested that RCCD consider taking a lead role. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided they need more information and that the project should be boiled down to simplified basics sans the science lingo.

Treasurer

1. Cam reported on the current bank balance.
2. Cam renewed the D&O Insurance Policy for the Board.

Kent

1. Kent reported on Community Ag Alliance activities which have been focused mainly on their local food market.
2. The Wildfire Council will meet today and continues to focus on education and defensible space with specific focus on HOAs.

Clinton

1. Clinton reported on the IWMP neighborhood meetings he has been attending.
2. He has received many calls on the Drought funding. Some options he is suggesting are to reseal ponds, develop springs, emergency grazing through CRP.
3. He has 12 new EQIP projects, mostly irrigation infrastructure and rangeland improvements.

IV. Business

1. Kent will be representing RCCD at the upcoming Range Management Field Day – FFA/Sorocco High School July 20th. Lyn is working with Baili on RCCD sponsorship and CACD grant.

V. Projects, Events, Grants

1. STAR and Soil Health Initiative Update:

Lyn reported that Baili and Clinton are working on the write-ups that will summarize the soil testing program this year. She also reported we will be receiving \$2,575 from the CCHS to distribute to the ag producer (Colby) that is participating in the pre-pilot STAR program. He will be purchasing a tailor seed mix developed for this project exclusively by Clinton and Baili for the field that was tested.

2. Weed sprayer purchase:

Jeremy provided options for a weed sprayer to replace the previous model which was discontinued. It was agreed the tank should be 100-200 gallons, and the unit be boomless with spot sprayer option. The budget is \$4,700. Some parts should be purchased to keep on hand. Jeremy has been unable to get pricing from Frontier. It was suggested that other distributors be contacted. Jeremy and Tyler will pursue this. Cam to get quotes for insurance.

Logistics were discussed:

- need to register the trailer for on the road transport
- scheduling to be done directly with Jeremy via phone calls. He will create a calendar
- Cam will draft an agreement for users to sign
- Jeremy will collect a check upon pickup of the rental as well as swipe a credit card with the Square app for security and cleaning deposit
- a cleaning fee \$50 will be levied if the equipment is not returned clean
- a 3-day continuous use maximum will be applied
- the fee should be reasonable but enough to ensure users respect the equipment, \$100/day was suggested, need to check market rates before we decide
- educational guidance in handout and on website.

3. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship:

Lyn sent Jeremy an agreement between RCCD and the family for the family to sign. The previous agreement format was utilized. Jeremy reported the family will be in town this weekend and he will have it signed.

4. Summer Events:

Nadine will represent RCCD at a booth at the Routt County Fair this summer. Other opportunities/events were discussed.

Brochures are being distributed.

VI. Public Portion

No public comments were made.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be August 17, 2021 @ 8am.

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am on a motion by Nadine and second from Lyn.