

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
August 17, 2021 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt
Jeremy Kline
Tyler Snyder

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS

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
- Lyn welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

II. Approval of Minutes

The July 13, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Kent.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

1. Lyn provided an update on the source water protection / blue green algae proposal for the watershed above Stagecoach Reservoir that she and Bob Woodmansee from the UY Watershed Group have been working on. Presentations were made last week to the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District as well as the WG. Funding sources are being sought.
2. Lyn reported that the Supervisor List is due to DOLA by September 1st and asked if any of the board member's information had changed. There were no changes, so the submittal will take place later today.
3. The Resource Guide which Lyn prepared in 2019 was raised last meeting and there was a discussion on how we could better message this information. One idea was to make it more prominent on our website. Members also felt we should develop a handout that utilizes this information as a service to our constituency. Lyn and Cam to work on.
4. Lyn reported the IWMP committee met and discussed the schedule going forward, project to end in March 2022. The technical committee also met to review the high level study of river segment condition and the revised report.

Treasurer

1. Cam presented the financial report through July 31, 2021. He reported on the revenue and expenditures as well as account balance. We are doing well against budget. The CSCB direct assistance annual payment was received in the amount of \$6,771.
2. Cam acquired an insurance quote for the weed sprayer, both for liability and to cover the equipment. The cost would be around \$1,400/yr.

Kent

1. Kent reported that Community Ag Alliance and the Wildfire Council have both recently met. Wildfire education is a main topic especially with HOA's.

Tyler

1. Tyler reported on the upcoming Cattlemen's dog trials to be held September 18 & 19 at the Romick Arena.

Rangeland Workshop held July 20th Sorocco HS, FFA – Debriefing

The event was felt to be very successful, would like better attendance in the future. Baili and Jay Whaley did a great job. Kent attended and provided an overview of RCCD. RCCD sponsored the event by covering supplies in conjunction with a CACD match. A grant from the Colorado Section of the Society Range Management for \$375 was also received but not needed, so it will be held in the RCCD account and earmarked for the range judging event coming up in October per Ben Berlinger. Kent thought the Workbook used for the program was a great publication and should be on our website. Lyn to provide a link to the work book to Board members and to Kaitlin (for the website).

IV. Business

1. Members revisited the RCCD 3-year Long Range Plan by category and task and found that much progress has been made. Future tasks for 2022 being the third year, were reviewed.
2. The Board was asked if anyone wanted to be the official liaison to the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group. Since no one volunteered, Lyn (who is already the Watershed Coordinator) was appointed as the official liaison to represent RCCD on a MOTION by Cam and 2nd from Kent which unanimously carried.

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 that she spoke with Colby from 2 Elk Ranch (the pre-pilot volunteer) and that he is holding off on planting the seed mix that Baili and Clinton developed after the comprehensive soil test results were reviewed until later in the fall since it is so dry. The score sheet being developed by the Science Practice Committee has taken a turn to focus more on conservation plans and drought plans – more to come.

2. Weed sprayer purchase:

Jeremy and Tyler pursued additional options and quotes since the previous Board meeting. It seems our only purchase option is through Frontier and will cost \$7,000 which is \$2,300 above the Taylor Grazing Act grant we received approval for. It is a 200 gallon boomless sprayer that is road worthy. Delivery is 4-6 weeks out. The total is now approaching the \$9,000 mark which

includes insurance and some spare parts. The daily charge was discussed and felt should be around \$100-125/day.

A MOTION by Tyler and seconded by Nadine was made and carried unanimously to go ahead with the purchase as quoted and get everything in place for start-up next spring. Lyn to inquire about additional grants to help fund the overage. RCCD portion of the cost to come out of the CSCB Direct Assistance money. Cam to prepare a rental agreement.

3. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship:

Jeremy is working on getting his family members to sign the agreement with RCCD. Once complete Cam will invoice each family member, \$500 for 2021, then each February for \$500. Potentially 2 awards can be made per year for college course work in agriculture, with the focus on ag students at the Hayden, Oak Creek, Yampa and Steamboat? High schools. The family would like to be involved in the review of applications.

4. Drought Stimulus Money:

As requested at the last Board meeting, Lyn developed a draft job description and reached out to Shannon, Kristen, Michelle, Todd in an effort to find/hire a part time admin/grant assistance person to assist RCCD using these funds. Work to continue on this effort.

NRCS Update

1. Clinton reported that he has received many calls on the emergency drought funding program mostly involving livestock water projects. Only 1 can be funded. Some of the projects will be rolled into next year.
2. Clinton has been working with the County and USFS on the Muddy Slide Fire debris flow response relative to infrastructure (bridges, dams, reservoirs, diversions, WWTP). He suggested that the District should consider a role in getting the County more motivated to participate.

Summer Events

Nadine was unable to host a table at the Routt County Fair due to illness. She suggested that we have a container with all display information in one place for future events. Lyn pointed out we have a nice table top display (located at the office) and it was felt that a poster could be a good additional display piece. Clinton has some SWAG. Also some things for kids was discussed such as stickers, coloring books. Nadine to work on developing.

Jeremy recommended the Hayden Farmers Market as one possibility.

VI. Public Portion

No public comments were made.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be September 21, 2021 @ 8am.

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am on a motion by Nadine and second from Jeremy.