

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
September 21, 2021 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

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

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Baili Foster, NRCS
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension
Patrick Stanko, CAA
John Miller, CSCB
Ken Brenner, UYWCD
Kristin Rockford
Reece Melton, Sorroco HS Ag
Bruce Johnson, rancher

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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.

Lyn introduced John Miller who filled the CSCB staff position Alyssa previously held. John provided his background which included growing up on a cattle ranch in Delta County, working for NRCS and Conservation Districts in irrigation management, soil monitoring and other resource conservation initiatives. Everyone welcomed John.

II. Approval of Minutes

The August 17, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Tyler.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

1. Lyn encouraged people to attend the upcoming field trip to Dry Fork of Elkhead with Kaitlyn Vaux and Clinton to visit a project that will include stream restoration of an incised area due to over grazing using the Joe Wheaton low impact method. Meets Thursday at 9:45 at the Granary in Hayden.

2. As she will be out of town on the second Tuesday of October, Lyn asked if the Board meeting could be moved a week ahead to Oct. 12th. Everyone agreed.
3. Lyn would like Board support to continue to work with Erik Wardle at CSU to arrange to sell the low cost soil moisture sensors that he has developed. The Board was supportive.
4. The Resource Guide on our website has now been moved to the landing page for better notoriety.
5. Lyn updated everyone on the progress of the nutrient and sediment/water quality project in the sub-basin above and including Stagecoach Reservoir. She had met with the UYWCD General Manager recently who is supportive. Other grant funding will be solicited. Ken Brenner, UYWCD Board Chairman thanked Lyn and Bob Woodmansee for their work on getting this project going and suggested that the RCCD Board participate as stakeholders. He also discussed UYWCD grant opportunities and the outlays to date for irrigation infrastructure.
6. After she sent the Board packet out, Lyn has received information from Todd about the upcoming COSS grant cycle. Grant requests are due Oct. 15. She asked Board members if they had ideas for requests. The possibility of using the funds for the additional price of the weed sprayer was mentioned but Todd felt it would not qualify. Other ideas were for additional soil testing in 2022 (Clinton thinks he can commit to helping with 15 total) and to increase the funding for the contracted part time district manager position. Lyn to prepare the application.
7. The CACD annual meeting will be Nov. 15-17 for anyone interested in attending.

Treasurer

Cam reported on expenditures since the last meeting and bank balances.

Kent

A wildland fire conference starts today in Grand Junction. They have been working on increasing awareness.

Patrick and Todd reported on the CAA Land Stewardship class underway with very good attendance this year including realtors and new land owners.

IV. Business

1. Preliminary 2022 Budget Discussion

Cam asked for comments, inclusions for the 2022 budget. Some add-ons to include insurance and spare parts for the weed sprayer; weed sprayer cleaning solution; consultant; scholarship money; Board conferences; additional brochure and display for events; carry over of Hayday; and purchase of soil moisture sensors to sell. Cam will prepare a draft for next meeting which will then need to be formally approved at the December meeting and submitted to DOLA by January 31st. A notice in the paper is also required.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of a table top river trailer-type demonstration as well as a healthy soil/rain simulation demonstration. Clinton has one of these through NRCS and will see if he can get it to be functional.

2. Draft RFP for Contracted Work

Lyn thanked John for his help with guidance for districts to enter into contract. The draft RFP she prepared was discussed. John commented that it was well put together and Board members agreed. The question of how long it has to be advertised will be researched further. On a motion by Cam and second by Nadine Lyn was authorized to send the RFP out ASAP in an effort to get someone on board by October. Motion carried unanimously.

Kristin provided the Board with her credentials and experience working with NRCS and other business and non-profit endeavors locally. She indicated an interest in position and will be replying to the RFP once it circulates.

3. The North Platte/White/Yampa Watershed Association (one of 9 in the State consisting of groups of CD's) will have its annual meeting tomorrow at 11:00. Lyn encouraged members to attend. She is the VP. One function of these associations is for CD's to voice policy needs to CACD's annual meeting for consideration. Two resolutions from the White River/Douglas Creek CD were discussed. The Board supported the one pertaining to District Technician Positions, the other was not well understood.

V. Projects, Events, Grants

1. Weed sprayer purchase

Jeremy reported the weed sprayer is ordered and is being built. He will get an invoice to Cam to pay. To avoid shipping costs from Nebraska, we will pay full price this year even though it will not be delivered until January. Jeremy is confident it will be delivered. Tiffany needs the proof of payment by December.

Kent outlined some marketing strategies to get the word out.

2. STAR and Soil Health Initiative update

Lyn has reached out to Colby who is delaying planting due to the dryness. He plans to plant soon.

3. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship update

Jeremy reported he is still waiting for commitments from his family, as they are busy on the ranch.

4. Range Judging Event Oct. 8th, Oak Creek

Baili announced the upcoming Range Judging event coming up Oct. 8th at Sorocco HS in Oak Creek. There will be 4 high school teams who will visit 2 sites. There will also be an indoor plant ID session. There are awards for teams and individuals.

VI. NRCS update

Clinton reported his year-end wrap up: 17 contracts (9 range, 5 irrigation, 1 stream restoration, 2 urban ag) with project costs totaling \$636,000 in Routt County (3400 acres). Also 10 re-enrollments in the Conservation Reserve Program. He already has 15 new signups for next year. The Walden NRCS person is retiring which will add to his work load until it is rehired.

VII. CSU Extension Update

Todd is getting numerous requests for weed sprayers and no-till drill leasing.

Vii. Public Portion

Reese thanked the RCCD Board for supporting the high school range judging contests.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be October 12, 2021 @ 8am.

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 10:18am on a motion by Nadine and second from Jeremy.