

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
October 12, 2021 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Baili Foster, NRCS

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:02 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 September 21, 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 provided an update on the CSU soil moisture sensor purchase/sale effort. Apparently there are a few production issues so please stay tuned.
2. Lyn submitted the Yampa Valley Community Foundation grant report as required prior to Oct. 15. The report details how RCCD used the funds this past year and is required prior to receiving any additional grant funding.
3. An update was provided on the nutrient and sediment/water quality project in the sub-basin above and including Stagecoach Reservoir. The Upper Yampa River Watershed Group met Oct. 6th to further discuss the project. The meeting was very well attended, over 15 participants. A presentation was made by Dr. Jill Baron who has been studying HABs in Rocky Mountain National Park and elsewhere.
4. Lyn and Clinton met with Ryan Taylor, the CDA Soil Health Program Manager, at the Legacy ranch last Friday. It was a very productive meeting.
5. Lyn reminded everyone of the upcoming Routt County Master Plan update meetings around the county and encouraged ag folks to participate to keep the importance of sustaining local ag front of mind.

Treasurer

Cam reported no activity since the last meeting.

Kent

CAA will host a Farm to Table event Oct. 27th.

The weed advisory board will meet Oct. 14th.

There is one more field event coming up at the Sanctuary by the Wildfire Council.

Nadine

Nadine attended the Division of Water Resources Division 6 meeting on headgate measurement rules and reported on the discussions that took place. It was mostly fact finding. Questions by participants included how this is going to affect people.

IV. Business

1. Review of Draft 2022 Budget

Cam went through the revised draft 2022 budget line by line. There was much discussion on the details of various projects including the allocation for the weed sprayer (estimated at 20 days @ \$110/day; \$120 per soil moisture sensor, purchase and sell 8; soil sampling 10 new, 3 old; Range judging sponsorship \$500; and numerous grant revenue/expense estimates).

Lyn reported on the recent announcement of approval of grant funds to the District relative to the STAR soil program and the breakdown of how the funds will need to be allocated.

2. Recommendation from RFP Interviews for Contracted Work

As approved by the Board last month, Lyn sent out the RFP to a large group regionally on September 22. Two very qualified proposals/applicants were received. Each was asked for 3 references. Kent and Lyn interviewed them both yesterday using a list of questions and format similar to both. Lyn thanked Kent for helping with the interview process. Both candidates did an excellent job in the interviews and both were very impressive as were their references. One of the applicants had a slight advantage having worked with NRCS in the past, a degree in Agroecosystem Management, and grew up on a ranch, so is very familiar with the ag world, resource conservation, and working with ag producers. She also has vast experience in soil health. A motion was made by Cam and seconded by Kent to select Kristen Rockford as the part time District Manager and presenting the independent contractor contract to her at the rate of \$30/hour for 500 hours over the course of one year starting October 18, 2021. Said contract will include a "renewal at the pleasure of the Board" clause as well as a mechanism for routine review. The position will report to the Board President. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Projects, Events, Grants

1. Weed sprayer purchase

Jeremy has indicated that the paperwork for the weed sprayer purchase is forthcoming.

2. STAR and Soil Health Initiative update

The work planned and funds received for 2022 were outlined by Lyn.

3. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship update

No report.

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

Baili reported on the event which was a great success. Seven students competed. There were 23 plant specimens to identify and they visited a range ecology side to ID. Baili hopes to build the program and engage more students in the coming years.

5. Grant Update s

Lyn applied for a Community Support Grant (deadline is Oct. 15), environmental category. The new application process is through the YVCF grant portal.

VI. NRCS update

Clinton will need to fill in for the Walden NRCS person that retired, so he may be harder to get in touch with until the new person is hired.

We may need to have a Local Working Group meeting and/or survey prior to the February Annual Landowners Meeting, TBD depending on EQIP requirements. Clinton will give the Board notice.

Lyn asked if NRCS staff collect local email addresses of those landowners they visit. These would be beneficial to RCCD for outreach efforts. Clinton said they could if the person signed a waiver to allow use of the information. The group discussed the possibility of obtaining emails from CAA, Kent to explore with Michele.

VII. CSU Extension Update

No report.

VIII. Public Portion

No public comments.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be November 16, 2021 @ 8am.

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 9:56am on a motion by Nadine and second from Kent.