

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
November 18, 2021 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt
Jeremy Kline

Contractor

Kristen Rockford

Partners and Public:

Baili Foster, NRCS

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 Kristen Rockford our newly contracted part time District Manager. Everyone voiced their excitement of having Kristen on board!

II. Approval of Minutes

The October 12, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Kent.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

Lyn is just returning from vacation. She and Cam finalized the contract with Kristen Rockford in mid-October with a start date of October 18th. Regarding the STAR pilot project, on October 22nd Colby at Hayden Fresh Farms planted the seed mix recommended by NRCS and has been asked to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Treasurer

Cam reported on latest financials including the check paid to the North Platt, White, Yampa Watershed Association. This fund helps with upkeep of the River Trailer.

Kent

Kent attended the CACD annual meeting session last night and will continue again tonight. The meeting was mostly a business meeting relative to legislative lobbying efforts.

Nadine

Nadine attended and reported on the Division of Water Resources meeting regarding over appropriation efforts in the Yampa basin.

IV. Business

1. Review of Final Draft of the 2022 Budget

Cam went through the revised draft and remaining questions. Approval is scheduled for the December meeting. He will provide the required notices to the public (posted in three locations).

2. A motion was made by Cam and seconded by Nadine to pay the Weed Sprayer purchase from Frontier. The motion carried.

3. Report from the contracted District Manager

Kristen has been familiarizing herself with all things Conservation Districts. She has created a Grant Master spreadsheet with links to grants. There are a number of deadlines approaching. She is also researching possible educational components for our upcoming Annual Landowners Meeting in February as well as possible funding opportunities such as CACD. Some possibilities are an inflatable soil tunnel and/or a speaker such as Dr. Jill Claperton a soil health expert. Kristen is also looking to sign up for webinars and at WordPress training courses.

4. Sanders Gravel Pit Application

Lyn went over what she learned about this proposed permit application from a phone conversation with Tara Sanders whom she had invited to attend today if she desired to make a presentation. The location is approximately 8 miles north on CR129 (Dean Look's place). Cam disclosed a potential conflict of interest as he works with Tara and will not participate if there needs to be a vote. When the ranch was purchased there was a shear wall which they desired to reclaim. They began hauling gravel off the site and trading it for topsoil and were reported to the County. They subsequently applied for a multiple year permit from the Bureau of Reclamation and Mining Safety and the County. As RCCD is not regulatory, no action was taken. Lyn had offered RCCD to assist with seed mix, etc. should they need it.

V. Projects, Events, Grants

1. Weed sprayer purchase

Jeremy indicated it should be delivered by the end of December.

2. STAR and Soil Health Initiative update

Lyn will be looking for 5 ranchers to participate in 2022.

3. Glenn Werner Memorial Scholarship update

Jeremy will see the family over Thanksgiving and hopes to have the commitments signed. Cam requested that, for budgeting purposes, December 1st be the deadline.

4. Grant Updates

No reports.

VI. NRCS update

Baili reviewed the EQIP December 3rd signup deadline and related review schedule.

January 7, 2022 – Prioritization and Eligibility Completion

March 18, 2022 – CART Assessment and Ranking for Statewide, Initiative and Resource Team Fund Pools

March 25 – Resource Team Lead (RTL) Peer to Peer Review Complete for Applications in Statewide and Initiative Fund Pools

March 30 – Pre-approvals complete

May 6, 2022 – Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Submitted to State Office

June 17, 2022 – EQIP Obligation Deadline

Baili reported on the Routt County Fire Mitigation Council's final field tour. It was held at the Sanctuary and focused on fuels mitigation. Four people attended including HOA. Clinton will start filling in for the Walden NRCS person that retired, so he may be harder to get in touch with until the new person is hired.

On the range judging front, a recurring winner has been Kayla Rossi who has since been invited to the national meeting representing South Routt. She is a senior. Lyn suggested she might be a good scholarship candidate.

VII. CSU Extension Update

No report.

VIII. Public Portion

No public comments.

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

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 9:34am on a motion by Nadine and second from Kent.