

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

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Nadine Arroyo
Kent Sandstedt
Tyler Snyder

Contractor

Kristen Rockford

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension

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.

II. Approval of Minutes

The November 16, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Kent.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

Lyn reported that she prepared and submitted the City of Steamboat Springs Community Support Grant report for 2021. She sat for an interview with the Environmental Committee for the 2022 grant request and has been notified that the Committee approved \$5,000. She thanked Todd for all of his work on this program.

Lyn submitted the Weed Sprayer purchase invoice to Tiffany, weed program coordinator at Routt County and has received the reimbursement check for \$4,700. She and Kristen are looking into options to see if the cost overage of the purchase can be funded from another grant source.

She attended a recent STAR Q&A session and the logistics are still being fine-tuned. Criteria for the 5 Routt County participants has been received, 4 program- focused and 1 research- focused ag operations will be selected. The Legacy Ranch is being considered for the research participant. Hayden Fresh Farms is in the program and Lyn has started a list of other interested people. She asked if anyone is

interested or knows of someone who is, to let her know as soon as possible as the deadline is January 24th.

Lyn has been working with Kristen on contractor assigned tasks including a meeting with our website developer. Kristen is ready to begin adding components to our website including an e-commerce piece as well as a donation button. Kristen has also been tasked with creating a new tab for the weed sprayer leasing project which will allow people to schedule, sign paperwork, and make payments online as well as an educational section. Lyn has asked her to get with Jeremy to coordinate and assist as needed.

Treasurer

Cam reported on the latest financials. Expenses included paying Frontier for the weed sprayer, reimbursing the range judging program, renewing our Zoom account for another year, and paying Kristen.

Kent

Kent attended the County Weed Advisory Board meeting last week. He reported on concerns that Greg Brown voiced regarding the weed sprayer leasing program as previous District Boards did not administer the program well. A discussion followed on ways we can ensure the program is successful and well received by our constituents as this will reflect on future endeavors of the Board. Kent suggested an orientation day for the Board to get acquainted with the equipment and processes and to assist Jeremy however we can. A discussion also followed on how to get the word out.

IV. Business

1. Approval of Final 2022 Budget and Resolution

Cam provided a final budget to the Board via email last week. He has made the mandatory public notices regarding the adoption of the budget today. There were no public comments.

Because we have had no agreements from the Werner family by the December 1st deadline, the Glenn Werner Scholarship fund line items will be removed for now. It was suggested we look for a possible new donor or donors to continue the RCCD youth support legacy through a newly named scholarship. The final budget was approved on a motion by Tyler and second by Nadine. The budget resolution was read into the record. The motion carried unanimously. Lyn will submit paperwork to DOLA to meet the January deadline.

2. Worker's Compensation Coverage Exclusion of Board members for 2022, Notification and Resolution

Lyn went over the mandatory filing due in January and made a motion to submit the WC-44 form to the CO Department of Labor by reading the worker's comp coverage exclusion resolution into the record. The motion was seconded by Cam and carried unanimously. Lyn to sign the resolution and mail the forms.

3. Annual Landowners Meeting

The date and format for the Annual Landowners meeting were discussed at length. Last year the event was virtual due to COVID, this year we hope to have a hybrid meeting via Zoom and at the Community Center. The events the last two years were in late February, however due to blues break, Kristen will not be available the last week of February. A tentative date of Thursday, March 3rd was set, same time frame, 5:30 supper, meeting until 7:00pm. Kristen to reserve the Community Center room and look into AV. The possibility of a vaccination check and/or mask wearing was discussed. Kristen put together an outline of possible formats, speakers, and educational components. Lyn to do introductions, Kent to provide a RCCD update, Clinton an EQIP and NRCS update, Todd to promote CSU programs. A discussion

of key note-type speakers (e.g. Jill Clapperton, Ray Archuleta, Brian Domonkos) versus a panel ensued. Board members felt that, due to the short time frame, it might be better to have a high profile speaker at a later event and stick with the panel idea similar to last year. Topics suggested included drought, soil health, noxious weeds, wildland fire. Kristen also has been researching a soil tunnel and is looking into the river trailer and/or a soil demonstration. She identified 3 possible caterers and will get cost estimates. Possible sponsors were discussed. Providing incentives to attend, such as a free weed sprayer rental, were suggested. There will also need to be some type of exercise to obtain feedback for prioritizing NRCS funding next year. A survey online and at the event was suggested. Ways to market and get the word out were also discussed.

4. February RCCD Board Meeting: changed to Monday, February 7th at 8:00am.

5. Website E-Commerce and Donation Button - report from the contracted District Manager Kristen provided suggestions for setting up a donation button on the RCCD website. Options she researched included Stripe, PayPal and Give Lively. She also discussed pros and cons and fees. For the e-commerce component (e.g. weed sprayer leasing), she provided information on WooCommerce, Mail Chimp, Koalendar, Start Booking, and Square. It would be ideal to not have to leave the RCCD site when possible. Kristen's recommendations included to setup Stripe, PayPal and Give Lively accounts and demo StartBooking and Koalendar as they are least expensive. Todd suggested she look into Constant Contact since he believes RCCD already has an account.

V. Projects, Events, Grants

1. Weed sprayer purchase

Jeremy indicated to Lyn via text that delivery has been delayed to mid-January.

2. Grants

Kristen has been researching numerous grant opportunities and provided an outline of options for the upcoming period of January through July. Three general categories were outlined and discussed: Annual meeting; Weed sprayer program; and finding a sustainable fund for a future District Manager staff position.

VI. NRCS update

Clinton reported that Dec. 3rd was the deadline for EQIP and he has received 15 applications (more projects than funding). There will be a cover crop EQIP sign up in January with a good payment rate (this is new).

VII. CSU Extension Update

Todd announced upcoming CSU events: Feb. 9th Wolf Workshop at Community Center with lunch; Feb 17th Livestock grower update / drought; Feb. 18th Meat field day; and March 3rd Agribility workshop.

VIII. Public Portion

No public comments.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be January 18, 2022 @ 8am.

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