

**Routt County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting due to COVID**  
**January 18, 2022 8 am**

**Attending:**

**Board Members:**

Lyn Halliday  
Cam Kuelthau  
Nadine Arroyo  
Kent Sandstedt

**Contractor**

Kristen Rockford

**Partners and Public:**

Clinton Whitten, NRCS  
Baili Foster, NRCS  
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension  
Patrick Stanko, CAA  
Bruce Johnson, Hayden rancher  
Mary Beth Stepans, Hayden Rancher STAR  
Doug Monger, Hayden 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.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The December 21, 2021 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kent and second by Nadine.

**III. Board Member Reports and Updates**

**President**

Lyn reported that she submitted the 2022 budget to DOLA as required and it has been accepted.

The Community Support Grant from the City of Steamboat Springs has now been approved by City Council upon recommendation of the Environmental review committee. Lyn thanked everyone involved in supporting the grant.

Lyn went into detail on the STAR and STAR PLUS program, reviewing the item she sent in the Board packet. The ag producer STAR Plus participants: Mary Beth Stepans, Flanders Ranch; Colby Townsend, Hayden Fresh Farms (Two Elk Ranch) possibly partnering with adjacent rancher Pete LaRochelle; Todd Hagenbuch, Legacy Ranch in Steamboat (research fields); Cam and Laurie Kuelthau Elk Mountain Ranch

in North Routt; and Caitlin Kryder, Last Chance Ranch (Good Hope Cattle) in South Routt. There will be a training on Monday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> and Lyn, Board members, NRCS, Todd and Kristen will attend. Ryan Taylor, the STAR coordinator with CDA joined the meeting and answered questions on reimbursement. He indicated that for year 1 participating producers will receive \$1,000 to \$5,000 each depending on acreage and matching contribution, and years 2 and 3 are currently set at \$3,000/yr but subject to increase if grants are approved.

On a motion by Nadine and second by Cam with unanimous support, Lyn was authorized to sign the Colorado Department of Agriculture STAR participation contract.

Patrick announced the upcoming CAA meetings around the County in February and he indicated he could pass out a brochure on STAR. Lyn to develop and send.

#### Treasurer

Cam reported on the latest financials. He hopes to receive an end of year financial statement from Doris by next meeting.

#### Kent

Kent reported on meetings he attended including CAA which is updating their strategic plan and has awarded \$10,000 of micro loans; Wildfire Council which is working on HOA awareness among other things; and the County Weed Advisory Board which will be offering training in March. Baili reported there will be an annual fire mitigation conference last week in April/first week in May.

### **IV. Business**

#### 1. Annual Meeting (March 3, 2022) Update and Planning Discussion

A steering committee was formed and met on 1/12 to work on details. A first draft of proceedings was included in the Board packet and was reviewed by the Board. A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### 2. Decision on e-Commerce and Donate Button components of website

After doing additional research Kristen made recommendations for vendors and process for both the donation button on the RCCD website and the weed sprayer rental. She illustrated how the rental page would look after getting input from Jeremy. The Board approved her recommendations (Give Lively, PayPal, Koalendar).

### **V. Projects, Events, Grants**

#### 1. Weed sprayer update

Kent heard from Jeremy that supply chain issues have caused delays on delivery.

#### 2. Grant updates

Kristen reviewed the grants she has been researching (EPA, GOCO, CWCB, RCCP, etc). She will continue to develop a concept paper that could fit into certain grants.

### **VI. NRCS update**

Baili reported having received 15 EQIP applications, mostly irrigation and one range, one forestry. They are in the process of ranking them with the state and should know funding by mid-March. There is a new EQIP incentive program for cover crops with \$1.5 million (state wide) which includes hayland.

#### **VII. CSU Extension Update**

Todd reported on upcoming events. There will be a livestock and forage grower update at the community center on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, a wolf workshop for landowner and managers only will be held on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VIII. Public Forum**

No public comments were received.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be February 7, 2022 @ 8am.

**Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am on a motion by Nadine and second from Kent.