

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
March 15, 2022 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Kent Sandstedt
Nadine Arroyo
Cam Kuelthau
Tyler Snyder

Contractor

Kristen Rockford

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Baili Foster, NRCS
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension

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 February 7, 2022 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kent and second by Tyler.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

- Lyn reported that the check from CSCB for annual support is forthcoming.
- Lyn provided an update on the IWMP.
- A request was made to support the Upper Yampa Watershed Group's grant application for nutrient and sediment loading project next steps which also focuses on prolific algae blooms and toxic blue green algae that is starting to occur in the basin. The Board supported writing a letter.
- Lyn suggested that it might be time to approach the Routt County Commissioners to provide an update on RCCD and ask for support.
- Lyn has asked Kristen to host a table at the upcoming State of the River event in Steamboat on March 24th.

Treasurer

- Cam reported on the latest financials.
- The STAR funds have been received.
- Cam went over the Exempt from Audit materials again and indicated these need to be signed by all members for Lyn to file with the State.

Kent

-Kent reported meetings he has been attending:

- CAA – upcoming ag week
- Wildfire Council – focus on defensible space especially HOAs
- RC Weed Advisory Board – training classes are underway.

IV. Business

1. Annual Landowners Meeting Debriefing

The group discussed the pluses and minuses of the ALM. Speakers were good, program went long, need to reduce speakers to 3 next year. Consider having additional sessions. Open doors earlier. Soil demo was informative. Youth presence was great. Hybrid format was a challenge, some could not hear on zoom, others in room had difficulty seeing slides due to equipment in front of the screen. Need larger screen.

2. Exemption from Audit Resolution

After reviewing the statutory documents the Board passed a resolution approving exemptions from audit for the fiscal year 2021.

3. Cancellation of Election Resolution

On a motion by Nadine and second by Cam, a resolution cancelling the May 2, 2022 election was passed unanimously.

4. Cancel April Board meeting

The April Board meeting was cancelled. Next meeting May 17th.

VI. Projects, Events, Grants

1. Weed Sprayer Rental

There was concern about ensuring the weed sprayer arrives and that the rental program takes place without issues to avoid tarnishing RCCD's reputation. A discussion was held regarding providing backup to Jeremy. Tyler suggested having multiple pickup-drop off locations. In addition to Hayden, they could include his ranch for south Routt, possibly Joe Duska in central Routt (Clinton to contact), and others that Tiffany or Greg Brown might know about. It may be necessary to hire a maintenance person.

2. STAR Plus and Soil Sampling Projects

Lyn updated the group on STAR and our soil sampling initiative which is in its third year. She will be setting up field visits with the 5 STAR participants for spring soil sampling and consultations. Clinton will help with ensuring all are registered with FSA.

3. Grant update: Building RCCD Capacity with the goal of sustaining full time employees

Kristen reviewed the draft concept paper she prepared that was distributed in the Board packet. She suggested 3 grants to pursue: Yampa River Fund due April 4th; CO Healthy Rivers Fund due March 30th; and Community Funding Partnership which is a rolling application. Lyn also suggested Upper Yampa Water Conservancy as a possibility. Kristen pointed out that this is a planning effort which will lead to developing relationships and on the ground projects to be funded by future grants. Administrative time will help support the goal of hiring a full time District Manager as an employee, as well as District

Conservation Technicians (fundable through CSCB). The Board supported the project as it is founded on the RCCD Long Range Plan, as well as pursuing the grants suggested.

VI. NRCS update

-Clinton reported on the survey results from the ALM. Priorities were inefficient use of water; weed management and wildfire. Under land use, soil health was by far the top priority, then irrigation then grazing land.

-\$500,000 of asks have been received with an allocation of \$250,000 (less than last year).

-Baili announced she is leaving to take a new position with the USFS.

VII. CSU Extension Update

Todd announced the Meat Field Day event coming up on April 1st at the Hayden High School.

VIII. Public Forum

No public comments were received.

The next regular RCCD Board Meeting will be May 17, 2022 @ 8am.

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