

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting due to COVID
May 17, 2022 8 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Kent Sandstedt
Nadine Arroyo
Cam Kuelthau
Tyler Snyder
Jeremy Kline

Contractor

Kristen Rockford

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
John Miller, CSCB Western Regional Field Coordinator
Patrick Stanko, Rancher
Stephen Evans, Rancher

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:04 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 March 15, 2022 RCCD Board Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Nadine and second by Jeremy.

III. Board Member Reports and Updates

President

- Lyn updated the Board on the 6 month status of the Consultant/Acting District Manager.
- The Upper Yampa Watershed Group meeting is scheduled for July 6th.
- She has renewed the SAM (systems for awards management) account.
- The Ag Water Alliance has distributed a series of short YouTube videos on US Army Corp requirements and exemptions for ag and Lyn suggested we add it to our website under "resources". The Board approved.

Treasurer

- Cam reported on the latest financials.
- The insurance for the weed sprayer was scheduled to begin May 1st. He will confirm with insurance company.

Kent

-Kent reported meetings he has been attending:

- CAA – working on Moot Ranch Rally, Farm to Table, Gravel Race and Mixer events coming up.
- Wildfire Council conference a couple of weeks ago, well attended.
- RC Weed Advisory Board – Weed days coming up on May 28th & June 3rd at County Shop. He recommended that Jeremy bring the weed sprayer for promotion and calibration, Jeremy will do so.

Nadine

-Nadine attended the CSU grasshopper workshop. The group discussed strategies going forward to mitigate damage.

Jeremy

- He would like to do a weed sprayer dry run at his place, the Board approved.
- Will create a logoed sticker for the sprayer (Lyn to send logo).

RCCD Board Member Application

-Lyn had distributed to Board members an application from Stephen Evans. Stephen told the group that he is interested in learning and would like to be part of the Board. He grows alfalfa on an 80-acre farm west of Steamboat. His application was sponsored by Board member Nadine who reiterated Stephen's great interest in agriculture. Cam asked what he felt he could contribute, and helping with the ALM as well as other events was discussed. On a motion by Nadine and second by Kent Stephen's appointment was approved for a three year term. Lyn to administer the Oath of Office at the next meeting.

IV. Business

1. Weed Sprayer Rental

The draft weed sprayer rental agreement and terms as prepared by Cam and Kristen was reviewed in detail. Kristen walked through the process of signing up. It was decided we would take cash or checks only at this time to keep things simple. Logistics for returning the sprayer and cleaning issues were discussed at length. Pickup and drop off times were also identified including no driving at night. Guidelines were discussed regarding how long it would take to spray various acreages. Fees for damage, late drop off, lack of cleaning, etc. were determined. A new draft will be circulated by Cam.

V. Projects, Events, Grants – Updates

1. Weed Sprayer Rental

It was decided to start small – word of mouth – for the spring as opposed to a mass marketing campaign. Once the process is streamlined and working well, promotion will be expanded and could possibly include a bulletized brochure on how to sign up.

2. STAR Plus and Soil Health Initiative

Lyn updated the group on STAR and our soil sampling initiative which is in its third year. Four of the five STAR participants have been visited by the team (Clinton, Lyn and Kristen) and samples taken and sent to the lab. The fifth visit will take place today. All areas of the county are represented and are quite different. These discussions with landowners have been very interesting and valuable. Comprehensive

soil sampling and analysis is paid for (1 per ranch) by STAR (CDA) and the others will be paid for using RCCD funds. Lyn obtained a quote from WARD labs which is very reasonable.

Additionally, 4 new ranches have been visited by Clinton or Kaitlyn and soil samples taken. This is funded by the City of Steamboat Springs Environmental grant and is our third year of promoting the understanding of soil health by performing comprehensive (Haney-type) analysis and interpreting for ranchers to help make resource conservation decisions.

There was discussion on using the \$20,000 equipment funds as part of STAR. A participating rancher was hoping to purchase a used no-till drill and use the funds, however, the seller decided he wanted to keep it. Other potential opportunities were discussed.

Virtual fencing has been discussed as an opportunity to do as a demonstration project. The up-front costs are expensive. A discussion on possibilities took place.

Soil moisture sensors were also discussed. The CSU low cost option is having issues and is on hold.

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

Kristen presented a summary of the grants she has been exploring and two have been submitted to date. The Yampa River fund application was denied.

4. Summer Event Opportunities

Nadine will lead the exhibit table at the Routt County Fair this August. Clinton will share a table.

Hay Day was discussed. A possible field day theme might be drought resiliency and hay land or transitioning out of CRP. The black grass bug (harms wheatgrass) is becoming an issue in Moffat and now in Hayden which might also be a way to promote plant diversity. Clinton has some ideas for possible sites.

VI. NRCS update

-Clinton reported on EQIP projects coming in. He is hopeful the Walden NRCS position will be filled soon which will free him up significantly.

VIII. Public Forum

No public comments were received.

Next Regular Meeting – June 21, 2022

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am on a motion by Nadine and second from Stephen.