

Routt County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2022 8:15 am

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Cam Kuelthau
Kent Sandstedt
Nadine Arroyo
Jeremy Kline
Stephen Evans

Contractor/District Manager

Kristen Rockford

Partners and Public:

Clinton Whitten, NRCS
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Extension
Patrick Stanko, CAA

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:15 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 June 21, 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 as follows:

- Lyn updated the group on the Upper Yampa Watershed recent meeting and specifically the "algae" project status.
- RCCD is identified as "co-lead" on IWMP project to develop a landowner Best Practices Toolkit.
- CSCB annual support funds forthcoming.
- RCCD grant application to Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District is on the Board agenda for tomorrow.
- Additional funding from STAR of \$10,000 received.
- The "visitor etiquette" press release approved last month was carried in the Steamboat Today newspaper through Facebook. Positive feedback received.
- Board members bios are now on the website.
- Water Congress is August 23 & 24. RCCD has been asked to participate in a community presentation showcasing projects in the Yampa Valley.
- The draft Routt County Master Plan update is now available for public comment.
- We will begin discussion on strategic planning/long range plan update next month so please begin thinking about future endeavors.

Financial

- Cam reviewed the financial reports for January through June and entertained questions.
- The State Risk Pool's annual D&O insurance premium is higher than our current provider so he will renew the existing policy.

Kent

- Kent reported on meetings he has attended this month including Wildfire Council and CAA. There was discussion on how RCCD and CAA can better complement one another and the need to better coordinate with CAA and have additional representation among the two groups.
- The Colorado Water Plan draft update is now available for review and comment.

IV. Business

1. Weed Sprayer Rental

Jeremy reported on the weed sprayer rentals to date.

A draft rack card was distributed for review. Printing and distribution of the rack card was approved with noted edits.

2. Mill Levy

Discussion of a mill levy was continued from last meeting. Kristen reported on other CD's that have mill levies. Lyn and Kristen to continue to research.

V. Projects, Events, Grants – Updates

1. STAR Plus and Soil Health Initiative

-Lyn provided an update on the STAR program. Soil test results are in and were reviewed by the team (Clinton, Kaitlyn, Kristen and Lyn), summary reports are being finalized and will be delivered to participants soon. Lyn is working on finalizing Field Forms for submission to CDA.

Lyn reminded that the \$20,000 equipment funds as part of STAR must be utilized by October 1st of this year. Partnering with CSU on a no-till drill was discussed.

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

Kristen presented a revised summary of the potential grant opportunities. She noted that with over 200 non-profits in the valley there is stiff competition. Two grant application denials were received so far. YVCF response is anticipated for September.

A draft letter to the County Commissioners was reviewed.

3. Summer Event Opportunities

-Nadine will exhibit for RCCD at the Routt County Fair in August. Jeremy is looking into having the weed sprayer on display.

-A Field Day for this summer with Marlon Winger as a possible presenter on soil health and possibly to be held at Mary Beth's ranch in Hayden to highlight soil health and cover crops was discussed.

V. NRCS Report

Clinton reported that he is losing another employee and so far unable to hire positions. He is struggling to keep up with work load and looking into options with his boss. One idea is to focus time and future funding on irrigation project in the Bear River area for the next couple of years. Concern was raised by Board members about lack of success of current irrigation infrastructure grant program (UYWCD and CWCB funds) as well as the need to represent our entire constituency.

VI. CUS Extension Update

Todd reported on grasshopper spraying.

VII. Public Forum

No public comments were received.

Next Regular Meeting – August 16, 2022

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am on a motion by Jeremy and second from Nadine.