

Routt County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
September 19th 2023 8:30 am
Mountain Valley Bank Meeting Room

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Michael Moon
Kent Sandstedt
Tyler Snyder
Cam Kuelthau
Patrick Stanko

Partners and Public:

Nakayla Lestina via zoom
Chad Cherefko via zoom

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:20 am by Tyler Snyder and a quorum established.
- The meeting was noticed as required by the Sunshine Law.
- Tyler welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

Nakayla Introduction Lyn introduced Nakayla from the NRCS. Nakayla is covering for Clinton until a replacement can be found. Nakayla mentioned that she is wrapping up her fiscal year and take care of existing contracts. Nakayla said the candidate needs to have a natural resource degree. Currently it is open to NRCS employees and will open to the public if there is no interest. Candidates also need one year as a GS9 or related field. Basic Range Management degrees are accepted. Lyn asked about staffing and current contracts. Laurel is the resource con and is formulating a game plan.

Chad Cherefko – Chad is area conservationist manages Steamboat and Walden. Chad mentioned that there have been 80 selections and 40 acceptances. 4 positions have been selected and they are working on selecting people. Clinton will help to train new staff. Area staff will be scheduling a time for training in Steamboat. Chad mentioned a new position for a resource team lead. They got approval for recruitment incentives for 3 years of housing. The NRCS is currently at 30% capacity in the Human Resources and Clint Evans has pushed for staffing Human Resources first and has received some Inflation Reduction Act funding for 90 advertising. Clint Evans will attend the watershed meeting on the 27th. There is a local recruitment effort for high school and college pathways programs. Chad asked for the Board's health to train and help new staff by doing ride along days so they can be educated on the day-to-day aspects of area ranchers. CAMP launched before COVID. Agreement for mentoring development plan for individuals. There is an Earth team volunteer program for highschoolers who ride along and learn about the NRCS. Lyn asked that any who can attend will show up on the 27th to speak with Clint Evans and discuss the hiring challenges with the NRCS.

Approval of the Minutes

Patrick motioned to approve the July 18th minutes as read and Lyn seconded. Motion Passed

CAWA Grants

Lyn reported that the invoice from the Ely Ranch for collar leasing finally was received. She has now disbursed all CAWA grant monies received by RCCD for the North Routt Virtual Fencing Demo project.

Michael reported on the field day sponsored by CAWA (lunch was funded by RCCD) at the North Routt Virtual Fencing Demo project site.

STAR Soil Program

Lyn updated the Board on the upcoming deadline for STAR participants to apply for reimbursements for implanting best management practices related to soil health.

GLCI Grant

Cam mentioned that he would like to read the application and understand what our requirements are.

*Michael moved to form a committee for the purpose of managing the GLCI Grant with the first order of business to formulate a job description Cam Seconded. Motion Passed
Tyler, Patrick, Michael, Kent and Cam appointed themselves. Lyn Motioned to approve the Committee members with Michael as the chair. Patrick Seconded. Motion passed.
Committee meetings need to be posted 48 hours in advance.

Toolkit Update

Lyn reported that the Toolkit is completely covered for \$25,700. Lyn reported that there were 30 participants for the soils health field day and it went very well with good feedback from participants. The STAR PLUS program needs to remain on the agenda.

Board Member Reports

Kent updated the Board on Ag alliance and a meeting taking place on the 21st. Also a Weed Board meeting on oct. 26th. There a no coming Wildfire Mitigation Council.

Patrick – there was a round table meeting where Becky Mitchell gave a presentation about protecting Colorado water.

Michael – the Routt County Cattleman’s Association had a dog trial and it was a great success.

Lyn - The RCCD 2023 Supervisors list which is required to be sent to DOLA by Sept. 1 was submitted and approved.

Cam Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 and the meeting was Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting – October 24th, 2023