

Routt County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 21st 8:30 am
Mountain Valley Bank Meeting Room

Attending:

Board Members:

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

Partners and Public:

Todd Hagenbuch

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.

Approval of the Minutes

*Cam motioned to approve the minutes from the September 19th Meeting of the Board of Directors. Cam motioned to approve the minutes as amended between Tyler and Lyn. Kent Seconded. Motion Passed.

*Kent motioned to approve the October 24th minutes after changing \$3000 to \$5000 under the Community Support Grant. Patrick Seconded. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Lyn requested the addition of \$1600 to the 2024 budget for printing of additional soil health toolkit booklets. Cam informed the Board that RCCD has sufficient funds on account to permit inclusion of this amount in the 2024 budget. The revised draft of the 2024 budget also reflects the discussion from the October 24 meeting where-by the Board agreed to allocate funds for 5 base stations and 400-500 collars as part of the GLCI grant virtual fencing project

*Cam motioned that the Board approve the latest draft as amended by this discussion, the Budget for submission of a notice to the newspaper and to be finalized and formally approved at the December meeting. Kent Seconded. Motion passed.

GLCI Committee Report

Michael received two inquiries for the manager's position. The committee agreed to hold a meeting on December 7th at 2PM over zoom to discuss these and any other inquiries that might emerge from the job posting.

Website Management

Patrick asked about the web page and if it will be beneficial to post topics on the homepage or keep adding individual tabs? Lyn thinks there should definitely be a GLCI tab because that is a big project for the Board and will hold a lot information on its own.

*Kent Motioned to appoint Patrick as the website manager and for him make changes to the website as he sees fit. Patrick seconded. Motion passed

Patrick mentioned that we need to post updated minutes and Tyler will send him the updated minutes that were approved at this meeting.

Weed Sprayer Update

Lyn asked that a weed sprayer update be added to the agenda for the next meeting. She asked that the Board inquire with Jeremy about calling in for a report?

Board Member Reports

Kent – The Wildlife Mitigation Council will be meet in January and the Weed Board Meeting has not been set yet for the end of the year.

Patrick – The Community Ag alliance will move to be a fiscal agent for the Nickel ditch and Bird ditch. The Bureau of Land Reclamation will help to automate the headgates. Upper Yampa gave a grant for support on these diversions.

Lyn – STAR update, in 2018 Lyn participated in a science committee to come up with field forms and pre-pilot methods. The CSCB is the revisiting pre-pilot discussion and she has been asked to participate in those meetings. Sam Deluca has been hired by the NRCS. The Yampa, White, North Platte Watershed Association has been set by the CSCB. Lyn ran a meeting in Craig and had invited Clint Evans and questioned him about the nationwide hiring of NRCS staff and the bottlenecks created by having only one person doing the hiring for multiple states. The CACD and NACD formed a resolution to be sent to NRCS.

Upper Yampa Watershed Group is working on a project for mainstem of the Bear River sub basin to address nutrient and sediment loading that is occurring in Stagecoach and other waters in the basin. The Group is working on an RFP for a consultant that and analyze the data that has been collect over time. There is a steering committee that is trying to identify sources of the loading. The Watershed Group will do an isotope analysis of the three different sites along the mainstem.

Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District has hired a consultant for a wildfire readiness action plan geared toward agriculture and municipal water sales and mitigating risks for negative impacts of a wildfire. Lyn will be sitting on that committee. Lyn asked if the Board would also like to be represented in those meetings?

*Kent Motioned for Lyn to represent the district in meetings to study a wildfire readiness action plan through UYWCD. Michael seconded. Motion passed

Todd – He addressed the Board and Lyn about the miscommunication on the Community Support Grant. Todd had emailed info@routhcountycd.com but it did not get to Lyn. Lyn responded that she did not receive the email but said to forward the email to Tyler as the Board President. Lyn also asked Todd to ensure that Greg Hamilton has the correct email (board@routhcountycd.com) for any communication in the future. Todd apologized for the confusion. Tyler mentioned that he has applied for the grant and needs to submit last year's report and Lyn agreed to assist in formulating that report.

Todd mentioned that the Kernza test plot was very successful. The fall sainfoin establishment did not happen but will be drilled in the spring. The end of field study equipment has been removed and they are awaiting results. Todd mentioned that CSU and CU are working on a joint study to look at nutrient loading and water filtration and cooling facilities sources on his property. The study will focus on natural systems to cool the water. Cattle exclusion is something that they are looking at. Todd thought that maybe Virtual Fencing could be an option to aid in cattle exclusion.

Lyn gave a brief synopsis of carbon trading, Michael mentioned that he had discussions with a couple of carbon trading companies that might help with funding of regenerative practices.

Patrick mentioned the possibility of a coordinated outreach with other organizations that way this Board does not overwhelm its constituents. Lyn supported the idea with the thought that so many organizations are competing for funds. She views that it might be to the point where conflicts are occurring. She recommends that we have a summit to get on the same page and invite multiple organizations that have common focuses and goals.

Patrick mentioned that there is an Ag Water Summit at the end of November and he will talk to Phil Brink about applying for funds. The deadline for applications is January 2nd.

Patrick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 and the meeting was Adjourned

Next Regular Meeting – December 19th, 2023