

Routt County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 20th 2024 8:15 am
Mountain Valley Bank Meeting Room

Attending:

Board Members:

Lyn Halliday
Kent Sandstedt
Tyler Snyder
Cam Kuelthau
Patrick Stanko

Partners and Public:

Nakayla Liester
Sam Deluca

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:19 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 January 23rd 2024 minutes

- *Lyn moved to approve the minutes with the change from (he) to (she) on page 4. Patrick seconded
- *Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

Cam gave a summary of the audit exemption forms and financials from the CPA. For 2023 the total revenue was \$47,436 and total expenses \$54,119 bringing the net loss to **(\$6,683)**. The total revenue was under \$750,000 so the Board does qualify for an exemption from audit. The Board members were provided with the audit exemption resolution and application form. Each Board member has reviewed each form and Cam will drop those forms off at the office for each Board member to sign in person. The forms must be submitted by the end of March.

- *Cam motioned to approve the financials and audit exemption and resolution and adopt the audit exemption resolution and financials as presented in the Board packet. Michael seconded *Motion Passed

GLCI Contractor Agreement Decision

Michael asked the Board what the best way is to get the Board's approval for the contractor agreement after he and Patrick finish drafting the agreement? Tyler asked if there needs to be an official legal reading? Cam responded that the legal reading would be up to the Board but would be time consuming and costly. Cam mentioned that approval can happen now as long as the budget of the grant aligns with the compensation being offered. Tyler did not think that an attorney was necessary and Lyn agreed as long as the contract is within the GLCI Grant parameters. Michael asked about the committee moving forward to with contracting with Kathryn. Lyn said that the Board needs to move forward in the interest

of time, and asked that the committee communicate with the Board as it finalizes the agreement. Patrick asked about the committee meetings having a quorum and needing to be noticed and have formal minutes. Tyler said that in the interest of time, he is happy to withdraw his position on the GLCI committee as to bring the number of Board members below that of a quorum.

*Michael motioned to remove Tyler from the GLCI Committee Patrick Seconded. *Motion passed

*Lyn motioned to approve the committee to finalize the consultant agreement for the project manager position with clear documentation and reporting submitted to the Board at the full Board Meetings. Tyler seconded. *Motion passed

NRCS Report

Nakayla said there are EQUIP and CSP applications being reviewed right now for approval and there were roughly 10 applicants over a wide variety of resource practices. There were more projects than funding. The NRCS went an act now funding process but there needed to be thresholds for scoring those projects. Some of the low value rankings did not meet those thresholds based on resource conservation. One half of the applications were preapproved. The local office has two new employees that and they are still looking for a qualified applicant for Clinton's position. Erin Gelling will be the new Rangeland Specialist and will start March 6th. Ian Whitting will start April 2nd or 8th and will be the new Natural Resource Specialist. Lyn asked if the new team members can help with soils test interpretations and Nakayla said yes. Nakayla mentioned that the state conservationist local working group bulletin and meeting will happen before June 28th. Lyn asked if Nakayla had any suggestions or format recommendations to get people engaged in the LWG meetings. Nakayla said that LWG meetings are generally met with low attendance, one District combines their meetings but the meetings tend to be very long. Lyn reiterated that LWG is an important function and the Board should continue to facilitate those meetings.

Nakayla mentioned that she needs to look into our unfunded cooperative agreement with NRCS and make sure she accounts for space in the office and reports for mileage for techs, NRCS staff, and equipment. Lyn agreed to be the point person between Nakayla and the Board.

Annual Landowner's Meeting

Lyn mentioned that we have never done a business meeting during the ALM and she does think it's a good idea and will be too time consuming. Cam said that the district financials also do not need to be part of his presentation and we should focus on landowners and resource concerns. The Board discussed things that will need to be picked up and brought to the meetings. Food/Drink (provided by Soroco FFA), easel paper, sticky notes, sign in sheet, table top sign, and handouts. There will be no virtual option. Patrick asked about the IWMP for a food sponsor and to have an outside table. Kent said he was not opposed but does not want to dilute our purpose. Cam asked if there was going to be a session or presentation. Patrick said it was just a table to before and after discussion. Patrick said all the Board needs to do is thank the IWMP for sponsoring the dinner.

CAWA Grant Discussion

Patrick let the Board know that the CAWA grant did not get funded this year.

Star

Lyn mentioned that this is the 3rd year of the agreement with CSCB and we have 5 participants. We receive \$3750 for capacity support and 50/50 producer reimbursement. The Board needs to hold a field day similar to last year and there will be a form submitted for each participant to CSCB. Lyn said she will set up meetings to file the forms. Lyn asked that the field day for the STAR program be put on next month's agenda.

Board Member Reports

Lyn filed the worker's comp resolution and annual report to DOLA. She met with Clint Evans at the headwaters kickoff meeting and he said they are working on addressing HR concerns within the NRCS. The Legacy Ranch and Stagecoach edge of field study and preliminary results have been received. There is a water dashboard meeting on February 12th and is a good tool to keep an eye on.

Kent informed the Board that there will be weed classes on Wednesday evenings throughout March. CAA is having their capital campaign and construction is underway. WFMC is planning a March 29th meeting at CMC and there is information on their webpage.

Michael said the cattlemen's has not met yet. The Home Ranch will host a ranching for profit seminar with Dallas Mount.

Patrick is working on grant writing for water projects and there will be a Common Ground Showing at the library. April 2nd will be a State of the River meeting in Moffatt County and April 3rd it will be in Steamboat.

Michael asked to there be a subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday March 5th at 1PM to review the contract and he will ask Kathryn to join. The meeting will be held over zoom.

Next meeting March 19th 8:15am MVB

Patrick Motioned to Adjourn at 11:17 PM