



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 (970) 445-0307

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023
5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum, CO

Meeting called to order at: 5:48 PM by Scott Schlosser

Supervisors Present: Wendy Sacks, Shawn Bruckman, Clayton Gerard, Scott Schlosser, Jay Taylor

Supervisors Absent: Scott Jones, Ken Marchetti

Guests: Kallie Rand, Marcia Gilles, James Dilzell, Stephen Jaouen, Denyse Schrenker, Steffen Mehnert, Cliff Thompson

Approval of Minutes: Scott motions to approve, Wendy second, all in favor

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held March 8, 2022

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones		
Scott Schlosser	20	47
Wendy Sacks	7	20
Clayton Gerard	12	7
Shawn Bruckman	12	14
Jay Taylor	7	14
Ken Marchetti		

Treasurer's Report:

[**Master Budget 2022/2023**](#)

Topics to Discuss:

Outstanding Waters Designation:

- James Dilzell - Eagle River Watershed Council
- State designation, antidegradation designation awarded to outstanding reaches of streams/rivers/tribs. ERWC is looking to designate three rivers in our county.
 - East Fork Brush Creek, West Fork Brush Creek, Big Alkali Creek
 - Looking further up the tribs, get a good idea of what's going on upstream, before the streams hit developments, etc.
 - Streams designated as such receive special protections for riverside, riparian areas. Prevents future changes (development, etc) that cause permanent degradation.
- Does not affect pre-existing uses, permitting, pre-existing grazing.
 - May affect future development, mining claim development, etc.
 - May affect grazers if territory gets expanded, herd size doubles, etc.
- 3 years to get to hearing at the state to designate
 - public outreach
 - water quality testing
- If a stream does not meet quality standard checks, it will not qualify, no detrimental effects for users, just may cause ERWC to look at water improvement projects in the area.

RFP-Eagle County Open Space Consultant:

- Cliff Thompson
- Suggesting that ECCD is part of a technical advisory committee for a group that is putting together a bid to the county for the Open Space Plan RFP
 - This fits into our plan of having a presence, collaborating, providing technical expertise in the community
 - 4 meetings over the course of a year is the probable time commitment
- Thoughts - we should be a part of whichever group gets the RFP proposal
 - Whatever happens, we should notify the county that we would like to be a participant in whatever way, shape, or form.
 - Marcia was notified that we would like to be involved as a stakeholder, regardless of who receives the bid.
- Bid is due on Monday
- RFP - Open Space has been around for a while, well funded, but doesn't have a master plan. Trying to create a strategic plan, with input from constituents, to check in and guide the Natural Resource Department for the next 5 years. In 2024, there will be a Natural Resource Plan for the County, and so these two together will be a guiding direction, creating consistency if there are changes in leadership, etc.

Social Media Updates:

- Allegra Waterman-Snow
- Update on social media stats - we are up in numbers for reach, about even for paid reach, as compared to the previous 90 days.
 - Working on getting more followers, etc.
- Posting more, reposting more, to get our presence out there.

Spring Seed + Wildflower Sales:

- Ordered 20 extra native wildflower mix, already we've sold off 3 or 4 of those
- Filled our 500 lb order
- Now that ordering is closed, we received more inquiries, how do we go about it?
 - We are going to order 500 more lbs, of a combination of everything else minus the semi-irrigated pasture mix, that we can sell to orders coming in, and at market booths, etc.

Material Ordering/Updates:

- Stickers, pens, banners, business cards, pamphlets ordered.
- Going to try and make a "whiteboard" video, about who the conservation district is, in line with what Teton Conservation District made:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S08nock5mdU>
- Going to try and make a booklet with our programs
- Stay tuned on cost/reality of these two things

Program Updates:

- VENCE
 - Ashlee is hired and coming back, working on getting a second, part-time technician
 - Truck - either getting one from Clayton, or from NRCS.
 - Stephanie Pitt leaving the NRCS, so we lose her expertise on the project, but are figuring out a way to move forward with that.
- STAR
 - Soil moisture probe readings update every hour, Laura just received training on installation
 - Applied for three new producers, will reach out to figure out who those producers will be, once we receive the funding.
 - One producer - Chris Adams - has been difficult in figuring out how to use the funding, for what STAR wants to use them for.
 - Will have to remove him from the program if he does not want to use the funds in a way that aligns with STAR
- Beyond Lawn
 - Contract sent to board members to look over
 - Contract with CWCD took a while to get finalized, but finally approved
 - Getting a check in the mail in the next 30 days for the first year of the project

- Still need to build the website, work with WaterNow Alliance, and then everything will be live.
- ERWC has one demo plot at riverwalk, start focus there, then figure out where the next ones will be
 - Lawn alternative study will start Spring of next year.
- America the Beautiful
 - Still waiting on contract
- Demo Project
 - Finally receiving the \$3,000 check soon

Stakeholders Meeting

- May not be able to do it at the church - TBD
 - Will do at Gypsum restaurant if no go on Burns
- Shooting for the 1st - 15th of May timing

Upcoming Events:

1. April 18: Town of Vail: Sustainable landscape workshop (Presentation)
2. April 20: Wild and Scenic Film Festival- (Booth Stand)
3. April 21, CMC: Earth Day (Booth Stand)
4. April 22, CMC: Walking Mountains/CAC Workshop: DIY Landscape Conversion
5. April 24, Knapp Ranch, TOE- Gardening (Shawn- Compost)
6. May 1-15, Local Workgroup Meeting
7. June 17th- 1st Minturn Farmers Market

Broad discussion on other events that have happened in the past month- meetings, conferences, etc.

NRCS Report:

- Personel
 - Stephanie Pitt is leaving at the beginning of May
 - 2 recent grads tentatively committed to Glenwood
 - Natural Resource specialists
 - Program support specialist position closed today
 - Job announcement for engineering should be coming out soon
 - They are going to try and put a Resource Con position in Glenwood as well
- Water
 - Eagle river is a little above average
 - Roaring Fork is much higher
 - Colorado mainstem is looking about 25% above
- EQIP applications
 - Most funding went into rangeland projects

- Soil health
- streambank/riparian project
- Irrigation projects (5 or 6)
- 3 projects in Eagle County
 - 300,000
 - Grazing, PJ removal project

CSU Ext Update:

- No updates

Mail Review:

- Outdoor Colorado Magazine

Next Meeting Date: May 10, 2023

Adjourn: Scott makes motions to adjourn, Wendy second

Notes taken by: Allegra Waterman-Snow, Lead Technician