



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes June 14th, 2023
5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum, CO

Meeting called to order at: 5:38

Supervisors Present: Shawn Bruckman, Clayton Gerard, Shawn Bruckman, Jay Taylor, Ken Marchetti, Scott Schlosser,

Supervisors Absent:

Guests: Anna Nakae, Matt Sadler, Amy Sadler

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Wendy, seconded by Ken. Motion Passes

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held May 10, 2023

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones		
Scott Schlosser	15	30
Wendy Sacks	8	20
Clayton Gerard	10	40
Shawn Bruckman	14	80
Jay Taylor	7	14
Ken Marchetti	8	12

Guests:

America the Beautiful Challenge:

- ERWC- Anna would like for the ERWC to partner with ECCD's first year cost share with America the Beautiful, for Tamarisk and russian olive removal on BLM Colorado River. They are moving towards removal on private property & are interest in partnering with ECCD on our Noxious Weed Cost Share program. They do not have the infrastructure to implement a program but have funding to promote removal of invasives & funding to replant. ERWC has a list of shrubs and trees available provided by Kallie and CSU Extension. Budget \$4,000 this year for plants. Clayton and Shawn think this is a good

addition. Shawn makes a motion to move the ERWC Tamarisk and russian olive program into ECCD America the beautiful. Motion seconded Clayton, motion passes.

- RUTSU- Amy stated that homeowners ask about our Noxious Weed Cost Share. Rutsu is happy to partner with us to help with site visits & providing the application for landowners but need clarification on the criteria of requirements. Clayton asked if the Noxious Weed Cost Share would go commercial? If ECCD partners with applicators, what are the requirements or landowner eligibility? Laura will create a working group to define the criteria and guidelines for the applicator

Survey:

- Ken- Survey is going to cost \$18,000 to conduct because of the number of voters. \$5,000 can be donated from ECCD & Ken has offered to match \$2,500. The goal is to get support from board members to get to \$18,000. Is the board comfortable with making that commitment? Scott Schlosser would like to contribute. Scott Jones offered to provide some money personally & through business. Ken will create a form for a donation with receipt for tax.
- Jay is hesitant on timing. Schlosser says we're in the right place, right time with the right momentum. The board asked how the survey is provided? -Through multiple methods. Magellan makes the survey and the board approves before it is sent out. Survey results will provide an idea of what ECCD needs to focus energy on. If the results are positive, ECCD needs to approach municipalities for support this summer for an adopted 2024 budget, therefore the survey needs to go out as soon as possible. Survey is also a benefit for ECCD background and exposure. Ken made a motion to spend \$18,000 and enter into an agreement with Magellan and to take \$5,000 out of ECCD budget and to raise donations for the other \$13,000 with commitments of about 80%. Wendy seconded motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

[Master Financial Statement 2022/2023](#)

Topics to Discuss:

Other Program Updates:

1. VENCE- Allegra is in the field with the techs, Clayton says there are hiccups with technology and new owners. Other than that, the second field season is in motion. Laura submitted the financial report and another funding request.
2. Beyond Lawn- ERWSD -> Laura stated that ERWSD may seek Beyond Lawn to oversee their rebate program. The board requested there be a capacity component to ECCD if we move forward. Allison is meeting with her team to report back to ECCD on the proposal. Shawn mentioned ERWSD's desire to get biosolids out on the land. ECCD can be a liason for that product on the ground, however they would need to provide support to ECCD and would also need to pay for transport otherwise.

3. STAR- Update on new producers; Shawn was at the soil health committee meeting and they confirmed that the program for additional participants begins in 2024. ECCD must confirm the participants this fall. Additionally, there is more EQIP funding being dedicated to cover crops. CWCB is putting out more money July 1st & December 1st for producers to apply for water or agriculture projects.

State of the River Water Update-

- Scott S said that a “Dry Up Program” was introduced at the State of the River to help producers “save their farms” from drying up with the opportunity to lease their water rights. Scott Jones does not like this concept. This program was brought up 5 years ago and was unsuccessful. Shawn said the program was brought up at the CWCB soil health meeting and claimed that it is getting momentum. The program allows people to get into farming because they can buy the land, sell the water, making the property more affordable, however, it’s a permanent lease. Schlosser requested a copy of the state of the river presentation & will forward it to the board. There was an inquiry to ask Cathy Chandler Henry to join the ECCD board meeting to discuss the “Dry Up Program” more.

CAC - Natural Climate Solutions Meeting- Shawn

- ECCD was the highlight of the Natural Climate Solutions. Town of Avon, ERWSD, BFAG, they want to see more pilot projects and Shawn mentioned that ECCD is already implementing many of them. They wish to see more of what ECCD is doing, and funnel our projects through their newsletters.
- Town of Eagle- Demonstration Garden & Lawn Study
 - Potential sites include: Pool and ice rink, which is fairly degraded land however it does not qualify as a turf replacement & also risks construction issues
 - The other location was across from the town park (nice, grassy field) but less likely to be approved.
- The community would like to see more farm tours & it was suggested to get Jen Jones to participate. The tour could include worm farming, VENCE, and STAR
- There is continuing talk about incorporating agrivoltaics into Town of Eagle and Town of Gypsum

ArtWalk: July 7 & 8:

- Shawn, Wendy, Ken have volunteered to help. Additionally, Ashlee is interested in participating.

Fair and Rodeo Signup:

- Wednesday- Laura & Shawn
- Thursday- Laura & Ken
- Friday- Allegra & Wendy / Clayton
- Saturday- Allegra & Scott Schlosser

Upcoming Events:

1. June 17th- 1st Minturn Farmers Market
2. July 8- Minturn Market, ArtWalk-both will occur
3. July 15- Gypsum Daze
4. July 22- Minturn Market
5. Eagle County Fair and Rodeo - July 24th - 29th

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

NRCS Report:

- N/A

CSU Ext Update:

- Staffing update- Part time admin tech started yesterday, Connie Melzer. In office- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays full time. Laura will continue to work Tuesday/Wednesdays but in another room.

Mail Review:

- N/A

Next Meeting Date: July 12, 2023

Adjourn: 8:49pm

Notes taken by: Laura Bohannon, District Manager