



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes September 13th, 2023
5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum, CO

Meeting called to order at: 5:40

Supervisors Present: Scott Jones, Scott Schlosser Wendy Sacks, Shawn Bruckman, Ken Marchetti, Jay Taylor

Supervisors Absent: Clayton Gerard

Guests: Stephen Jaouen

Approval of Minutes: Scott S. makes motion, Shawn seconds, all approve

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held August 9th, 2023

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones	10	150
Scott Schlosser	10	30
Wendy Sacks	12	50
Clayton Gerard		
Shawn Bruckman	20	50
Jay Taylor		
Ken Marchetti	24	20

Treasurer's Report:

[Master Financial Statement 2022/2023](#)

- Preliminary 2024 Budget:
 - Need **160K** to hold election (see below)
 - 180K with fundraiser
 - 200K with cushion

- 2025 budget - Ken and Laura created a breakdown of what we would spend \$ on if we secure a Mill Levy, so that we can provide that info to voters
 - Water conservation projects, drought resilience/wildfire mitigation projects, regen ag, virtual fencing, Nox weed cost share, turf replacement
- Prelim - by 2026, can be designating 400K - 450k to projects on the ground.
- Salaries - minor increase for 2024 (5%), major increase for 2026 if Mill Levy passes. Also looking at the addition for a 401A (retirement) with a .50c match per \$1

Topics to Discuss:

Elections Next Steps:

- General Update:
 - Meeting with Eagle County Open Space on Friday and want to have concurrence on election budget before presenting to County
 - Asking county for an additional 60K, for election purposes
 - An “advance” on 2025 budget, as we will not need it from them in 2025 if Mill Levy passes
 - With a 0.15 mill, we would raise ~ 660K
 - Need **160K** to hold the election (printing, election judge, other direct election costs)
 - **180K** with extra election costs, legal, additional printing, fundraiser, etc.
 - Hope to raise - Fundraiser: ~60K
 - Hope to raise - County: 60K
 - Eagle County Clerk and recorder declined to have a coordinated election with us (print our ballot next to theirs) - does not have the capacity
 - We will have our own ballot and separate election (Not on the main ballot)
 - They can still be dropped off in a ballot box, but Regina O’Brian will not count. Will need a courier, polling place, election DEO.
 - Bob Cole (attorney for Gypsum, formerly on Forest Service Foundation board) - going to bring us a proposal to be our legal consultant.
 - Will adopt official election resolution in July/August 2024
- Outreach Next Steps:
 - We have to be strict with our language - everyone has to be on the same page and have the same message
 - Took top issues from survey, distilled that verbiage, and created 4 bullet points
 - Still refining language
- Fundraiser Update:
 - Meeting with Robin Thompson, to either learn from her, see if we can hire her help, etc.
 - Looking to raise 60K from the fundraiser
 - Will take about 18K to host

- Takehome is 42K
- Wendy is looking into what a budget would look like, and see if we can raise more like 120K
- Laura and Wendy toured Tesla building for potential event - still waiting to hear back
- Possible two levels of fundraising events? General event, and a small, exclusive event (Splendido, 500\$ a plate, 30 people, etc) using contacts Scott J, Scott S, and Wendy have

Seed & Tree Sales:

- Wrapping up tree sales
 - Didn't make a lot, but was a good introduction to tree sales
- Wrapping up seed sales
 - Still have some on reserve

Program Updates:

1. America the Beautiful
 - a. No updates - still not under contract
 - b. Getting lots of inquiries - intake form is working well
2. VENCE
 - a. Approved 2025 no-cost extension
 - b. Updated budget with extension into 2025
3. Beyond Lawn
 - a. Training with Irrigation Analysis happened with ECCD and Master Gardeners
 - b. Landscape evaluation begin Oct. 16-20
 - i. Allows them to apply for rebates once those become available
 - c. Application for evaluations goes live on Sept 15th
4. STAR
 - a. Consultations with two new producers occurred
 - i. Third producer - looking at doing it at Eagle County Open Space
 1. Has to happen before October 31st
 - b. New national STAR program coming out - can layer it on existing STAR program
 - c. Reminder to existing producers to get in their matching forms

The Dry Up Program Update -

- Program is still out there if the landowner wants to do it

Upcoming Events:

1. September 19-20 - CDA Rocky Mountain Soil Health Conference- Denver
2. September 22- Eagle River Water Festival
3. September 25: Colorado River Watershed Meeting
 - a. 12-3pm
 - b. Rifle Library

4. October 10-10:30am- BoCC <> ECCD Annual Update
5. November 13-17 CACD Resource Committee meetings (every evening at 6:30pm)
6. December 4-5 - CACD Annual Meeting

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

NRCS Report:

- Engineer - not anytime soon
 - One detailed from Georgia, hopefully will help with backlog
- Might get a range con/soil con tech
- Still trying to hire, pushing to hire (CO trying to hire ~50 positions in state)
- 30 EQIP applicants getting deferred to 2024
- Not considered in a drought right now
 - Average rainfall for next three months (slightly warmer temps)

CSU Ext Update:

- Denyse not present

Mail Review: N/A

Next Meeting Date: October 11th

Adjourn: Shawn makes motion to adjourn,

Notes taken by: Allegra Waterman-Snow, District Technician

Action items:

- **Remove sterile triticale from website**
- **Update seeding rates for triticale (¼ what is currently listed)**