



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda June 8th, 2022
5:30pm in the Holy Cross Room at the Eagle County Buildings

Meeting called to order at:

Supervisors Present: Scott J, Scott S, Ken, Wendy, Shawn

Supervisors Absent:

Guests: Allegra Waterman-Snow, Matt Ebert, Ashlee Ducharme

Approval of Minutes: wendy motion to approve 5.11.22, unanimous approval

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held May 11th, 2022

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones	20	0
Scott Schlosser	10	20
Wendy Sacks	8	20
Clayton Gerard		
Shawn Bruckman	15	20
Jay Taylor		
Ken Marchetti	6	0

Treasurer's Report:

Alpine Checking Account balance: \$68,799.70

Money Market Account balance: \$30,659.01

Topics to Discuss:

VENCE Update + Tech Intros-

- In the field techs are digging soil pits, measuring water infiltration, collecting data along the transects, identifying vegetation, and noting dung to determine what wildlife is using the land. (second visit includes more data as well)
- 4 Transects on each plot of land - transects are selected by NRCS using feedback that Laura and Reta received from landowners on which parts of their land they utilize for grazing (2 by water source and 2 not near water)
- This is establishing a baseline for our project and potential protocol for other Vence projects around the Country. Recognize that changes in the landscape may not be visible after 3 years so this baseline data is important to compare 5-10 years down the road.
- Scott J questions: how many cows are collared, are they staying in their boundaries, etc. Want to make sure we are also collecting data on how herds are moving.
 - Laura explained that there are 2 elements to this project: one is the data collected for CSU extension and the second is data on the herds. Data on the herd management will be collected from landowners at the end of the season so to not hassle them too much throughout the busy season.
 - Ashlee explained that they go into each plot twice per season. There will be a 30-45 day window between visits
 - Scott J notes how important it is to look at data before and after grazing. Laura confirms this is why there are 2 visits, Matt says that there are also 4 control plots that will not have cattle on them at all. Allegra adds that they are hoping to do 3 data collection evens on each plot but it depends on time limitations - right now it takes about 2 hours to do each point but anticipate that to go quicker as they do it more.
- Laura had a meeting with Eagle County Manager Jeff Scroll & new open space director, there was a lot of interest in Vence and they noted that this seems like a project that the County would consider helping do cost share for ranchers to continue to fund these collars down the line.
- Wendy question: would this lead to removal of barbwire fencing.
 - That is the long term goal but need to make sure the collars are effective first
 - Stephen mentioned that CPW does a lot of fence removal and EQIP helps to fund removal on privat land
 - Ken mentioned that it would be a great PR activity to do an annual barb wire fence removal program - similar to how ERWC does an annual highway cleanup
- Vence budget update:
 - Laura has submitted Q1 reimbursement to the grant administrator. Feb 24-June 3 : Total of \$99,219.96. Money should be here within 30 days.
 - See ECCD Preliminary Budget 2022, vence budget tab

Noxious Weeds Application/Approval Review-

- Table to next meeting.. Kallie has some questions on this so we will wait until she is present to discuss this further
- Site visit is required, usually the County does this but ECCD board is happy to step in and help with site visits if needed.
- We decided last year, and will continue to uphold the boundaries of the cost share to include ALL of Eagle County (not just the ECCD boundaries), this means we will consider applications from basalt & eljabel region that is within the County but not within ECCD.
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Grass Seed Options-

- See seed cost comparison here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GG2pgvcTiSIszJVCH3NtUYDehyhnm1ZzgGVGIhn4FU/edit#gid=0>
- Steven recommends the #1 dry native mountain mix from Pawnee or #2 Native foothills mix from SW seed
- Denyse recommends the Native Dryland Pasture mix from SW seed
- Steven could provide us updated recommended application rates once we select the seed
- Where is the demand?
 - We could sell seed along with no-till drill
 - It would be good to have the seed before this fall to distribute to STAR program participants because seeding is in a lot of recommendations
 - It'd be great to have seeds by the fair & rodeo
 - Can we do a pallet of mixed options and still get the bulk discount
 - Need a scale, bags and labels
 - Start small, dont get too much seed because it is hard to store
- Next Steps
 - Reach out to Pawnee to get final cost for the mixes we selected
 - Make sure we can get 3 different mixes on one pallet
 - Contact other conservation districts who are selling seed - how do they bag it and how much do they mark it up for resale

Social Media + Marketing Proposal-

- Laura got 2 estimates from AVID design (the company we have been working with for marketing this year)
 - Option 1: \$1400 to keep same service plan for the rest of the year
 - Option 2: \$4200 extended service plan
- We have \$1000 in our budget for advertising, \$2000 for newsletter, \$4200 for website & media maintenance and some extra money in the PR budget

- Doublecheck to see when our website and domain expire
- Laura will make sure this person will coordinate with Cliff for the PR assistance
- Ken moves to get the extended service plan for \$4200 for the rest of 2022. Wendy seconds, all in favor.

*Laura Action: please reach out to Ken to put quickbooks budget into excel for future budget updates

No Till Drill Update- table for next month, things are going well for the most part but want to hear from Jay and Clayton on how the maintenance and rentals are going.

- There was one issue with the calibration but we knew something like that might happen. All of our calibration resources were correct. We would like to still charge them and then offer to let them use it again at no charge when they are ready to reseed.

STAR Next Steps-

- We have received the soil sample results for 3 of the participants
- Laura will talk to Ryan to see why all the results are not consistent
- Shawn, Denyse and Laura will have a follow up meeting to asses results
- Biosolids follow up - Shawn, Denyse & Laura will meet with Kira at ERWSD and look at reaching out to CDPHW to discuss challenges with the land use regulations
- What are we going to use the equipment money for? Laura will reach out to STAR to see what other CDs are using that funding for

Upcoming Events-

- 6/17 Luark Field Tour-
 - Shawn move to spend \$50 to buy tickets for our technicians, Ken seconds, motion passes
 - Need someone to pick up the porta potty - Shawn pick up with the Ground Up truck.

- 7/8 Eagle ArtWalk-
 - Need volunteers to work the tent - Ken can do it but we need one more
 - Laura reach out to Clayton, Scott J and Jay to see if anyone can help
 - Laura will also talk to the techs to see if one of them can help
 - Set up is at 4pm, meet at the CSU whitehouse

- 7/23 NRCS Work meeting

- 8/29 Soil Pit Demonstration-
 - Ask peter what time
 - Should work out for us, we'll add it to the calendar

- 9/6 Grazing School- (Every Tuesday August 2 to September 6)

Denyse is asking that ECCD sponsor food for a night of the CSU grazing school

- Ken moves to sponsor, wendy second, all approved
- Laura reach out to clayton and/or scott J to speak on Sept 6
- Ken makes motion to pay for Laura to attend grazing school, Scott s second, all approved

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

NRCS Report:

- Eagle river is peaking now
- Colorado will continue to rise at Dotsero, might peak out in the next week
- Glenwood will rise a bit but not much more
- May snow pack on the Eagle river about 255 acre feet of water going past gypsum - well below average of 320-350 acre feet
- Colorado below average as well - will provide normal run off
- Reservoir storage is below average
- May precipitation was 110% so higher dryland production numbers than average right now - recent snow caused a little flat line which helped delay drought
- EQIP funding is almost distributed
- NRCS has a pathfinder intern - she will graduate next year
- NRCS staffing numbers are tight and doesn't look like any openings will be approved in the near future

CSU Ext Update:

Grazing School!

Mail Review:

Next Meeting Date: July 13, 2022

Adjourn:

Notes taken by: Shawn Bruckman (Secretary)