



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Minutes February 8, 2023
5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum, CO

Meeting called to order at: 5:39

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

Supervisors Absent: NA

Guests: Katie Langdown, Stephanie Pitt, Denyse Schrenker

Approval of Minutes: Shawn Bruckman approved, Ken Marchetti second

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

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones	60	450
Scott Schlosser	30 min	1
Wendy Sacks	4	20
Clayton Gerard	16	500
Shawn Bruckman	35	220
Jay Taylor	9	400
Ken Marchetti	6	16

Treasurer's Report:

Master Budget 2022/2023

- Ken highlighted a few items in column G that aren't reflective of what was forecasted. Laura went through to figure out
 - VENCE - revenue, only had \$180,000 coming in, vs \$208,000 forecasted.
 - Reason: most recent reimbursement round was just deposited
 - Haven't been able to send checks to producers yet, but can backdate

- Demo project -
 - CDA is having a hard time with their EZFed account. CDA has not received money yet. Guaranteed we will receive money before Bobbi steps down.
 - Haven't been able to send money out because we haven't gotten money in
- Weed Cost Share -
 - Not reflective because we had not received county share, but we just received it.
- Salary/Taxes -
 - Wendy and Laura will address before next board meeting
- STAR - expenses
 - Gerards are having issues with people breaking into their mailbox and the check was stolen. Was not cashed yet, but will need to cancel that check and write a new one.
- Laura went through forecast year and made some updates
 - STAR
 - Now that we received new guidelines, we will have \$38,300 coming in through producer incentive payments
 - Producers will get a max of \$5,000
 - VENCE
 - Forecasted that we will not be pulling in VENCE deployment support, as we did not use that in 2022, but increased collar amount because of 3 new producers this year.
 - America the Beautiful
 - Forecasted for 20% cut to grant

Topics to Discuss:

Sweetwater: Katie Langdown

- Here to talk about what might happen at Sweetwater, with the creation of a State Park, on behalf of the Sweetwater Lake Working Group (SLWG)
- She provided a Site Plan Vision in paper, which came from collaboration of the SLWG.
- They had a meeting last night with FS, EVLT, CPW - one of their weekly collaborative meetings. SLWG gave the first rough draft of long term vision:
 - Sustainable level of visitation. Don't want it to turn into Sylvan Lake, or more cars on the road. Would like to keep the area small, maintain historical use, restore what they can of the cabins and possibly lodge, keep equestrian use.
 - SLWG wants to keep volume down. No RVs, no generators, etc.
 - SLWG also pushed on the naming - according to Parks and Wildlife, Sweetwater does not qualify as a State Park due to its location on federal land,

so SLWG wants to exclude State Park from the name, to keep it from becoming a place people assume is like Cherry Creek.

- CPW's small proposal easily doubled potential volume of people of the SWLG proposal, and their larger proposal quadrupled the number of people.
 - They want to replace pasture with campgroups, 100 parking spaces for day use, another parking lot, decreased equestrian parking and day use sites, etc.
 - CPW is likely going to get a 25 year permit to assume management of the land. Hasn't been done before. CPW would like to be involved, and think they can do this.
- **Ask from SLWG:** a letter of support, to suggest to FS and CPW to stick to what Governor Polis said in his declaration (maintain historical use). Ask to keep it small, no large developments.
 - Timeline for letter from stakeholders?
 - Sooner rather than later is great, but whenever works best for ECCD.
- Scott: A water user can object, so there's something to think about there. And if we write something, it has to be from a rancher water rights perspective. Would like to come at it from a ranch water issue.
 - Wendy: agrees that is more appropriate for us to come at from this perspective
- Clayton: wants to know when other meetings are
 - Every other Tuesday - the next one is the 21st. She will email info materials and dates for meetings to Laura.

No-Till Drill:

- No catastrophic damage, but will have to find new bearing to fix
- Need to do a better job or renting it out, and knowing who has it
- Moving forward:
 - Need to put an acre limit on it for greasing purposes - check hours for greasing to determine limit
 - TBD on number
 - Everyone who is using it needs to be on a contract
 - Contract needs to show how many acres will be done, for records/greasing
 - Clayton will hold onto deposit checks
 - Won't let people take it without providing check
 - Everyone who is using it has to sign a lease and has to provide a check
 - Order an equipment inspection book to be filled out everytime it is used
 - Clayton will hold onto with deposit checks
 - Check on communication clause in contract
 - Need to make sure ECCD is contacted right away, and pictures are taken when an issue arises

Water Efficient Landscape Conversion Program + Contract (+CWCB Match):

- Laura produced budget for program

- We have officially received funds - will receive them in four 25% increments, not reimbursements.
 - 2023 - 2026.
- Cash matches - none are officially secured as of yet, so need to wait on those
- CWCB - meeting on 3/15, so TBD on matching funds from them as of yet.
- Total project income:
 - \$48,362.50
- Project Expenditure
 - \$280,440.00
 - Splitting marketing, Landscape Workshop, etc with the ERWC
- Total Project Net:
 - \$45,862.50
- Conversation we are still pursuing - can they replace lawn with our native lawn mix?
- In this program, we have funds to contract out Irrigation Analysis - they are building a manual for landscape conversions - and we will provide a DIY packet
- ERWSD - they think that someone from their district can double dip, and get funds from us, and they don't see an issue with that
 - Will be up to us to look at applications, and determine location and funding
 - Can we put that question in the application?
- Currently working on workshops, putting together packets, right now in contracting stages. A lot more to come.
- Contract:
 - Auto Insurance: do we need it if we don't have a commercial car?
 - Inquiring with CRD
 - We need to secure this before we fulfill our contract with CRD
 - Should we have insurance regardless, since we will be using personal cars for the project?
 - Laura needs approval of the contract soon, once Wendy and her figure out the Insurance aspect.
- Ken makes a motion to approve the contract, Scott seconded, motion passes unanimously.
 - *** Upon Wendy and Laura's ironing out of the insurance question

Website + Commerce:

- SIPA looks too government, Laura and Allegra decided against to maintain our individuality
- Laura reached out to GoDaddy, they assured that they have not had security issues in the past, and it is a secure platform
 - Quote for 9 month commerce plan - \$60
 - Ken makes a motion to approve, Wendy seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- Going to add new domain for Beyond Lawn - beyondlawn.org
 - Pull budget from grant, 59\$, best solution for working with other partners

Grass Seed + Wholesale Nurseries:

- Laura looking for feedback from ag producers - what is a good date for orders to arrive in bulk?
 - April 1st is safer, April 15th is fine
- We are joining CSU Extension to have a booth at the Minturn Market - once a month from June to September (June 17th is the opener and we will be there)
 - May be able to sell seed there
 - Denyse says we can, and they would love for us to
 - Order more mixes to sell there - 5lb
 - On timeline - logo and labels made for seed, so we can put them on bags before market
- **Make agenda item in April**
- Nurseries - Laura looking for approval to explore local wholesale nursery options, so people can order plants from us for the Beyond Lawn program
 - Approval to explore options - granted

America the Beautiful Challenge (Nox Weeds) Update:

- Total project funds: \$160,000
- Contractor possibly secured - Licensed Applicator, \$20,000 over three years.
 - Do we need to send out an official RFP?
 - Ken thinks we do not.
 - Wendy recommends reaching out to Stephen for the legality of it.
- Working group determined:
 - 45 participants total
 - \$2,222 max award/participant
 - 75/25 cost share = \$3000 per project

Local Work Group:

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY:

*February 17, 2023 - Resource Team Leads (RTLs) provide State Conservationist (STC) letter (Attachment A) to Conservationist Districts

*June 30, 2023 - Deadline for Conservation Districts to convene a LWG meeting

*July 14, 2023 - Deadline for RTLs (if needed) to convene a LWG meeting

- Decision
 - Date: First week of May
 - Location: Burns Church - call Niki Luark
 - How to get out the word - put up at the church in Burns, post office in Gypsum, feed stores, hardware stores, 4 H community plugins, Ad in Vail Daily, Facebook/Instagram?
 - Find a speaker, potentially

Elections:

- Sent out a call for nominations
- Niki Luark inquired how to apply
 - She can be a non-voting alternate
 - She needs to just start showing up, and the board can appoint her as an alternate
 - She could not be part of an executive session
 - She cannot vote if there is a full board, but can if there is not
 - We do not want to have a public election (time + \$)
 - Have her come to the next meeting

Events:

1. April 18: Town of Vail: Sustainable landscape workshop (Presentation)
2. April 21, CMC: Earth Day Booth
3. April 22, CMC: Walking Mountains/CAC Workshop: DIY Landscape Conversion
4. June 17th- 1st Minturn Farmers Market

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

Name Change:

- Eagle Conservation District - unanimous approval
 - TBD, after Laura checks in with Cliff

NRCS Report:

- Stephanie Pitt has the Range Con detail for Eagle County for the next 4 months, which includes attending ECD meetings
- Two postings going up for NRCS (Soil Con and Engineer), and 2 pathways internships
- At least 7 EQIP applications approved for Eagle County

CSU Ext Update:

- Sent email with flier and website for Livestock and Forage Grower Update on 3/2
- Next meeting - Derek, food and ag mountain region specialist, will hopefully be attending

Mail Review:

- No mail other than check for Weed Cost Share

Next Meeting Date: February 8, 2023

Adjourn: Scott S. motion to adjourn, Jay seconded

Notes taken by: Allegra Waterman-Snow, Lead Technician & Communications

Action Items:

- Shawn & Scott S - Send list of Irrigation contacts to Laura for Lawn replacement program
- Wendy double check insurance requirements for river district contract
- Scott J - put local work group flyer at burns church