



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

Meeting called to order at: 5:33

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

Supervisors Absent: NA

Guests: Denyse, Marcia Gilles, Kallie Rand, Cliff Thompson

Approval of Minutes:

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

<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>MILES</u>
Scott Jones	10	0
Scott Schlosser	14	35
Wendy Sacks	8	20
Clayton Gerard	6	7
Shawn Bruckman	28	100
Jay Taylor	10	18
Ken Marchetti	12	21

Treasurer's Report:

-no new changes to report

Master Budget 2022/2023

Open Space & Natural Resources Introductions

- Update on a prior meeting with Ken, Laura, Marcia, Kallie:
 - Discussed ways we can work together, and be better partners with the county.

- Evolution in the county, changing priorities and bringing in programs that have been disconnected previously, to work together.
- Natural Resource branch was created, and Marcia was brought on as the director, to combine goals and programs to address both open space and natural resource management and issues.
- Still a lot of questions and evolution in the role that this program plays, as to not duplicate service provided
 - 2024 - natural resource plan
- Looking for gaps, and where they can step in to fill those roles.
- Laura is meeting with Kallie to discuss scope of work, and reporting to the county.

Topics to Discuss:

Public Relations + Mill Levy Update

- Over the past year, a lot of outreach has been conducted with individuals and organizations to determine who the key players are, needs are:
 1. Road Map
 - Mapped out a strategic path to determine what we can accomplish, who we need to work with, what we can provide, expanding the focus to more mainstream.
 - Recommendations - more collaboration with partners (agrivolatic, HOA turf removal, etc), more mainstream, more visible:
 - Enhance communication:
 - Streamline our language of communication
 - Updating marketing materials
 - Education (Increase visibility)
 - Master calendar
 - Determine audience
 - Determine what we educate on, and why
 - Extend collaboration and technical assistance
 - Focus less on building projects, provide more technician assistance
 - Top 5 entities
 - Leverage board's network and power
 - Repositioning district
 - Programs, demo sites, workshops, services, community engagement
 - Funding
 - Internal capacity - \$20,000 OR \$2/3K for grant writing professional
 - Rebranding professional - ?
 - Mill Levy Expenses - \$100,000
 2. Name Change
 3. Materials needed

Seed + Wildflower Mix:

- Grass seed purchase page is live.
- Lots of interest in wildflower mixes, from the town of eagle, etc.
 - We would order in bulk.
 - Will get a quote from Pawnee Butte, Laura will send it out once she gets it.
- Would like to work closer with the county to provide resources/cross promote.

Cancellation of Election

- Notice of Cancellation is certified.
- No need to approve, as Laura was already approved at DEO

Exemption from Audit

- Ken, Wendy, and Laura worked on financial statements.
- Laura will send out a DocuSign form.
- Wendy moves to approve Exemption from Audit Long Form, Clayton seconded, all approve, motion passes.

VENCE Technician Updates

- 3 new producers are under contract.
- 3000 new collars sent out from VENCE.
- Hosting two workshops - one in carbondale with new producers, one locally with existing producers (April 4th) w/ grazing management plans.
- Went through interviews this week, 3 good candidates, and Ashlee from CSU would like to come back as well.
- One CSU intern applied, and the position was extended to her.

STAR Updates

1. New Producers
 - Funding availability for ECCD to add on three new participants.
 - Need to secure participants - must be new, cannot be existing.
 - Limited time to find participants - by the end of the month.
 2. Zero Foodprint
 - STAR participants can apply to this application, and will provide the same financial benefits to a second field.
- New soil moisture probes will be installed in June this summer.

America the Beautiful Challenge (Nox Weeds) Update:

- The working group has finalized the Noxious Weed Cost Share Application and is looking good and ready to go for when we go into contract.

- 2 step process, website will help guide through it.
- Need an on-site visit before applying for cost-share.
- Patty is unsure when we will be going under contract, so cannot advertise yet.
 - May not be able to offer this year, or at all this spring.

Beyond Lawn

- The WaterNow Alliance Accelerator grant was approved to help with program development.
- We will be engaging in outreach this year, not jumping in too quickly to the rebates as we build out the program with invested stakeholders.

Upcoming Events:

1. March 18: 4H Oyster Fry- \$20 @ door
2. March 23: CO CEWL Annual Summit- Presentation on VENCE
3. April 18: Town of Vail: Sustainable landscape workshop (Presentation)
4. April 20: Wild and Scenic Film Festival- (Booth Stand)
5. April 21, CMC: Earth Day (Booth Stand)
6. April 22, CMC: Walking Mountains/CAC Workshop: DIY Landscape Conversion
7. April 24, Knapp Ranch, TOE- Gardening (Shawn- Compost)
8. June 17th- 1st Minturn Farmers Market

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

- Sweetwater: Scott and Jay attended working group, but it wasn't open to public yet
 - Need to be clear that when we are there representing as ECCD, we are only addressing water quality and soil quality issues

NRCS Report:

- Snow report: 119% upper colorado headwaters, 107% median for Eagle River
 - State is looking 110% of normal, west of the divide
- Stephen is back in action starting new week
 - Soil conservation posting out, for recent grads
 - Engineer position is next to fill
- 52 total EQIP application, 17 in Eagle County
 - 14 eligible in Eagle County
- IRA funding coming down, EQIP side has to include "climate smart" mitigation practices
 - CSP and EQIP applications now

CSU Ext Update:

- Rocky Mtn Oyster feed is next Saturday

- Application for accounting technician position (admin tech) is open - sent email
- Upcoming short course on animal handling and the effect of yield - sent email

Mail Review:

- none

Next Meeting Date: April 12, 2023

Adjourn: Scott S. makes motion, Ken seconded

Notes taken by: Allegra Waterman-Snow, Lead Technician

Action items:

- Mention on grass seed flyers that they can buy other pawnee butte seed mixes through us, not just the three on our website
- Planting calculator as a part of the website, with seed sales
- Include "colorado specific" when advertising wildflower mix, and "pollinator friendly"
- Allegra - send out calendar to board members