



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 (970) 236-6215

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes June 11, 2025
5:30pm 1286 Chambers Ave, Unit #201, Eagle CO

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tmt-ihpy-xid>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-628-0151 PIN: 705 102 112#

Meeting called to order at: 5:39pm

Supervisors Present: Shawn Bruckman, Wendy Sacks, Scott Jones, Clayton Gerard, Linn Brooks

Supervisors Absent: Niki Luark, Scott Schlosser

Guests Present: Emily Seddon, Ken Marchetti, Stephen Jaouen

Approval of Minutes: Scott Jones motions approval, Wendy seconds. Motion passes.

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held May 14, 2025.

BOARD MEMBER	HOURS	MILES
Shawn Bruckman	25	250
Scott Jones		
Wendy Sacks	10	8
Scott Schlosser		
Clayton Gerard		
Niki Luark		
Linn Brooks	12	200

Guests:

Emily Seddon (Eagle County):

- Eagle County Land Use Regulation Rewrite:
 - <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/eaglecounty-co-lur/doc-viewer.aspx#secid-49>
 - [Eaglecounty.us](https://www.eaglecounty.us) -> Community Development-> Land Use Code pop-up (one-stop shop to everything)
 - County commissioner & advisory committee work sessions (including recorded meetings and upcoming meetings)

- Board can email comments: ECLURproject@eaglecounty.us, or attend work sessions and speak during public comment, or comment directly in the Encode portal
- Original land use regulations & **new development portal**: Eaglecounty.us -> Community Development -> pop-up -> Link: "EC Land Use Regulation Rewrite Project"
- Biggest changes: Zoning districts, land uses and allowable uses
 - Grading is now under "Engineering Criteria Manual" (located at the bottom of the Rewrite Project portal) so that it can be updated separately from the land use code.
- Module 2= Chapter 3; Module 3= Chapter 4
- Looking to adopt this November
- Can ECCD pay someone to help or represent agriculture in the code updates?
 - Stephen Jaouen suggested Brett Jolley (sp)
 - Scott Jones to reach out to Brett to see if he can consult ECCD
 - Laura will look in the budget to allocate funds for his time (option: contingency funds)
- The board will send their comments to Wendy to compile. Wendy will report to Laura to include the recommendations in the board packet.

NRCS Report:

- EQUIP: Project applications
- No new personnel updates.
- Water levels are very low. Lower basins pulling more than upper basins can provide. Now past peak run off. D2 drought in most of the county.

CSU Ext Update:

- Shawn has spoken to Glenda. They are working on a job posting and are currently selecting their hiring committee.

Topics to Discuss:

Program & Staff Updates:

- Nox Weed Cost Share:
 - See board packet
- Wolf Grant Update:
 - See board packet
- Forestry Program:
 - N/A
- Colorado Soil Health program
 - Soil Health 2.0- The program will continue, but without financial assistance.
 - Ag stewardship tax credit is available for landowners
- Seed Sales:
 - See board packet
- Beyond Lawn:
 - See board packet
- CIG: Virtual Fencing:
 - See board packet
- FAPL: Virtual Fencing:

- See board packet

General ECCD Updates:

- Potential conservation partnership:
 - Shawn and Scott S met with the landowner to begin discussion for conservation opportunities in the future.
- 3-yr Strategic Operating Planning:
 - First meeting is Friday from 9am-1pm
- CDA- Solar (Best Practices)
 - Letter from CSCB on solar siting: stating their support regarding thoughtful integration of energy development into land use planning (i.e. solar panels and agriculture).
 - ECCD to share the letter with partners and Holy Cross Energy: Conservation Districts are recommended to be leaders and help support the community in managing land when using solar.
 - Updates from workshop in Grand Junction: Companies to help consult and build relationships amidst organizations working on solar projects. They also help manage contracts for implementation.
 - Local update for Eagle solar project: Geoff Grimmer facilitating the project. Looking for roughly 80 acres.
 - Holy Cross sent out an RFP for solar projects. Linn will connect with the board with the Eagle project.
- Colorado Basin Roundtable update (Brooks):
 - Potential seat available: Laura to invite Tom Boyd to July meeting.
 - Stephen said there is an ag seat vacant.

Treasurer's Report:

Master Financial Statement 2024/2025

- Questions:
 - What expenses fall under education?
 - For ECCD staff on trainings & education
 - Laura and Wendy will break out the travel category for seminars & workshops: mileage, lodging and food.
- Be mindful of authorizations and appropriations: Who is authorizing what funds. The board stated that Laura was authorized a couple years back to make purchases that fall within the approved Master Financial Statement budget.

Upcoming Events:

- June 10- Eagle County: Demonstration Garden Groundbreaking
 - Denyse and Ryan assisting with management
- June 11- ACE Water Conference
- June 13 - Strategic Operating Plan
- June 16- DIY Landscape Conversion- Eagle Library

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

Mail Review: N/A

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 2025

Adjourn: 8:12pm Wendy moves to adjourn, Linn seconds.

Minutes taken by: Laura Bohannon, Executive Director

Action Items:

- Laura to remind Scott J to reach out to Brett regarding Land Use Code consultation
- Laura and Shawn to reach out to Lake County Conservation District & Upper Ark CD regarding Land Use Code Updates
- Laura to be lead voice on agrivoltaic projects in the valley.
 - Jack Solar Farm: Byron: land use code expert- Linn will help Laura make contact.

PROGRAM & STAFF UPDATES

Beyond Lawn Program

- General Program Updates
 - Allegra and Laura are working on new CWCB grant application to continue the Beyond Lawn program
 - Letters of support are being sent out to partner organizations and stakeholders
 - Grant is due July 1
- Landscape and Irrigation Evaluations
 - 14 Evaluations completed in May (13 Residential, 1 HOA)
- Avon Sustainability Fair May 21
- Upcoming DIY Workshop June 16th at Eagle Public Library
- HOA Engagement
 - 2 new HOAs have received an initial site visit
- Turf Replacement Rebate Applications
 - 4 applications were received in April and May
 - 9787 SQFT of turf removed
 - 5177 SQFT of turf removed that is eligible for a rebate
 - \$8,956 awarded
 - Includes matching dollars from ToE
- Efficient Irrigation System Rebate Applications
 - No new applications received
- Financials
 - \$74,088 remains in grant funding to award towards Turf Replacement rebates
 - An additional \$23,167 remains from towns
 - \$25,692 remains in grant funding to awards towards Efficient Irrigation rebates
 - An additional \$14,080 remains from towns

Noxious Weed Cost-Share Program

- General Program Updates
 - Two HOAs (Ruedi Shores and Pilgrim Downs) have expressed interest and will likely have several landowners applying this year (several landowners from these communities have been in contact with me and/or submitted intake forms)
- On-Site Evaluations
 - 11 individual intake forms submitted
 - All site visits conducted by upcoming Board meeting
 - 3 additional site visits including noxious weed management discussion - one of these landowners will be eligible
- Applications
 - N/A

- Financials
 - N/A

Wolf Conflict Mitigation Project

- General Program Updates
 - Grant extension from 6/30/25 to 6/30/26
 - Still first-come first-serve
- On-Site Evaluations
 - N/A
- Applications
 - 4 total applications have been submitted (2 have been approved)
 - 2 new applications to be reviewed at upcoming board meeting
 - Requests = \$3,318.16
- Financials
 - Total reimbursement requests = \$4,424.16
 - \$30,575.84 left

CIG Virtual Fencing

- General Program Updates
 - Two returning technicians started on June 2nd
 - Training the week of June 2nd - 6th
 - Truck kit was purchased, and a truck maintenance form was created
 - Technicians will fill out the maintenance form weekly
 - CSU is continuing to work on data analysis
 - GIS contractor is continuing to work on GIS analysis

Foundation for America's Public Lands: Virtual Fencing

- General Program Updates
 - New budget has been created to allocate more funds towards collars (Halter) and monitoring (SnapLands)
 - Awaiting approval from the Foundation

CO Soil Health Program

- General Program Updates
 - CSHP activities has concluded
 - 2 out of the three Round 2 producers submitted reimbursement forms by deadline totalling \$6,350
 - Prorated capacity invoice sent to CDA for Q1 (Final)

Seed Sales

- Financials
 - Total Revenue for 2025 = \$3,923.57

- 2025 donations have been maxed out

STAFF Miscellaneous

- Other on-site visits- N/A
- Events-N/A
- Workshops-N/A
- Presentations
 - Greg spoke with Ruedi Shores community about noxious weed program and general management considerations
 - Laura and Allegra will be presenting to TOE town council June 24 on ECCD program updates and Beyond Lawn participation

BOARD UPDATES

Colorado River Basin Roundtable Meeting (Brooks) May 19, 2025

Hydrology Update:

Snowpack in the Colorado River Basin ended the season below average. The snowpack was closer to average higher up in the watershed. However, due to a dry fall and below normal fall soil moisture, stream flows are expected to be well below normal this summer. Stream flows may get some support if the predicted monsoon materializes. The forecasted water inflow to Lake Powell has been revised downward throughout the snowpack season and the lake level will drop significantly this year.

PEPO (Education, Participation and Outreach Committee) Update:

The committee is considering taking a more intentional approach to providing information to the Roundtable audience. In the past the committee has simply passed on information provided by the state and others but is considering generating its own content. The committee has applied to the state for a grant to get this initiative up and running and will begin discussions as to what types of information are desirable.

Zebra Mussel Mitigation Presentation:

Maddy Baker, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Invasive Species Specialist, presented on the history and status of management of the Zebra Mussel (ZM) infection in Highline Reservoir and treatment of the feeder canal and irrigation laterals between the reservoir and the Cameo Rollerdam.

The first detection of ZMs in Colorado was in Highline Reservoir in 2022, which is fed by water diverted from the Colorado River at the Cameo Rollerdam. The initial assessment was that the infection was isolated to the reservoir and did not come from the Colorado River. In March 2023, the reservoir was drained 25' down from full and the exposed banks were treated with a molluscicide. This was an experimental partial treatment to try to save the fishery and had never been tried before. A monitoring program was put in place and at first no sign of veligers (larval stage of mussels) was detected, but veligers were found in the fall

sampling. Upon further inspection, adult ZMs were also found.

In November 2023, the reservoir was fully drained, sacrificing the fishery, and was fully treated. In early 2024 veligers were detected in the Colorado River upstream of the Rollerdam. It should be noted that veligers can't swim upstream, they would have had to get there by transportation. The monitoring program has been expanded to include the Colorado River, and the Government and Highline Ditches, and there is great concern that mussels could get into irrigation infrastructure.

As a proactive measure, CPW, Ute Water, and Orchard Mesa and Palisade Irrigation Districts implemented a program to chemically treat their piped water system. This had never been attempted before and presented many challenges. The permitting for the treatment was fast-tracked to 7 days, instead of the normal 6-9 month period. The effort was well-documented and created a protocol for others to follow in the future if needed.

A fleet of educators and inspectors has been deployed to Highline and a few other reservoirs around Colorado along with mandatory high-temperature pressure washing stations. Risk assessments are being performed on reservoirs throughout the state. Inspection stations had already intercepted 35 boats in the first four months of the year coming across the Utah/Colorado state line from the downstream big reservoirs (Powell, Mead, Havasu etc) that were carrying live veligers.

The Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species program was potentially on the chopping block as the legislature works to reduce spending. CPW also noted that they have been hearing misinformation from boat owners at inspection stations that mussels are beneficial to reservoirs and streams because they clean the water. CPW staff noted that although mussels filter the water, they primarily remove nutrients, depriving the water of the food supply that supports the food chain, all the way from aquatic insects to fish, birds and other wildlife. Clear water is not necessarily healthy water.

Bolts Lake Redevelopment Project

Eagle River Water and Sanitation District asked for a letter of support from the Roundtable for state funding for the design phase of this project (\$1MM of the \$2MM cost of design). This project could add up to 2 cfs to the stream below the reservoir in Minturn during critical low-flow periods. The board approved the request.

Shoshone Water Right

Fund raising continues with a new grant from Pitkin County for \$1MM, which brings the fund-raising effort within a stone's throw of the goal. The Colorado River District is still awaiting word from the federal government on the requested grant of \$40MM, which was granted but is currently on hold. Front Range water users (Denver Water, Aurora Water) testified last week in front of the CWCB that they would be opposing the change in water rights designation to instream flow use out of concern that it could impact their water supply for transbasin diversions.

Colorado River District Seminar

...is scheduled for October 3, 2025 in Grand Junction.

The next Roundtable Meetings are July 28, September 22, and November 17.