



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes September 14th, 2022
5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum, CO

Meeting called to order at: 5:45pm

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

Supervisors Absent: Scott Jones

Guests: Denyse Schrenker, Stephen Jaouen

Approval of Minutes: motion to approve Wendy move to approve, shawn second, all in favor, approved

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held August 10, 2022

BOARD MEMBER	HOURS	MILES
Scott Jones		
Scott Schlosser	15	40
Wendy Sacks	4.5	20
Clayton Gerard	10	14
Shawn Bruckman	16	60
Jay Taylor	5	7
Ken Marchetti	8	20

Treasurer's Report:

Alpine Checking Account balance: \$94,349.90

Money Market Account balance: \$30,659.78

Draft Budget:

Notes:

- Projections for 2023 & 2024 but we are only voting on 2023 this year
- Mill levy - we have decided we will wait until 2024 to be on ballot
 - If we do Nov election it can be coordinated with county, if we do may it will be stand alone and may cost more
 - We have one shot to go to voters - need to make it count!! Lawn conversion program will help get our name out
- Election budget items
 - Grant revenue (line 48) election budget 2024 includes printing, mailing, legal, etc costs associated with running an election. We've requested this for 2024 from the County - to clarify this is funding is not asking the county to support ECCD election, it is simply to pay for operational cost which is allowed for county funds
 - Expenditures (line 64 down) election cost 2024 (line 74) includes cost of do a Nov election but if we do a May election then cost would double but we might have a better chance of winning if we go alone in May 2025
 - Legal (line 77) 1500 for 23 but 15,000 for 24 because of election
 - Survey (line 109) survey estimate based on Cliff's knowledge of making sure we have comprehensive representation of our voters
- Personnel budget items
 - DM salary (line 91) inflation is predicted to be at least 8% next year. Many companies are doing mid-year compensation adjustments because of the ripple effect of increasing wages. We need to be proactive at taking care of our employees.
 - Technician salary, plan for 8% increase and full time employment of Allegra in summer, part time in winter
 - PR - Cliff, keep same as this year into '23 & '24
- Totals
 - We have a deficit planned for 2023 & '24 but we have surplus in 2022 that would cover that deficit so by end of 2024 our bank account will be back where we started prior to hiring Laura
- Other
 - Insurance/ liability costs may go up in the next couple years with all of the extra work and staff that we will have
 - Health insurance - we should look into getting this for Laura. Special Districts Association gives access to health insurance pool (similar to Para program for the State) we would just need to join the association in order to get access to this benefit. Wendy has also shared some different options with Laura to look into as well so she can research all the options and come back with a recommendation from the various options.
 - Need to update grass line item in expenses
 - Publication requirements - Laura will check on this with CSCB on what we need to do to stay up to speed on this

EC Contract Update:

- Meeting went well with Maureen & Marsha. Included 8% personnel increase and also \$7500 additional budget for tech into next year's ask. Marsha is new Open Space director and our budget request falls under the Natural Resources and Open Space Department.
- BOCC votes on this at their upcoming budget meetings. We should know by next meeting if we are likely to get our request.

Grant Writing:

- Cliff recommends that we hire a contracted grant writer

Topics to Discuss:

FAMLI-

- This is an opt out program. If we do not opt out then we are automatically signed up
- We have discussed this at previous meetings - the board and Laura recommend opting out
- About 90% of entities are opting out at this time
- Wendy moves to opt out of the FAMLI program completely, Shawn seconds. Passes unanimous

STAR Update:

1. Equipment Approval-
 - a. Laura reviewed the matches that were approved by STAR grant
 - b. 4 of the 5 applications were approved by CDA. There was discussion about splitting the funding among all participants who applied, however after further consideration we concluded that it appears the funding is only for the 4 applications which were approved so the denied applicant will need to pursue another source of funding to help
2. Producer Matches-
 - a. Due at the end of the month. Laura has been making sure producers are aware of the deadline.
 - b. Need to have Scott J sign all producer match requests before we send them in at the end of the month.
3. 2nd round of Equipment match
 - a. STAR is behind on reviewing. We have 2 additional requests in. they will keep us posted once they can get to them

Drought Update:

1. Luark project
 - a. Waiting on final description because original funding request has changed. CDA said that we can still fund as long as it is the same amount and fits within our requirements of what was eligible for funding.
 - b. Stephen was involved in the engineering of this project, so he was able to update us: it will be a steel structure headgate and pipeline that comes down to

feed fields. It is a bit bigger project than originally planned because hydraulics were not sufficient for what they were trying to accomplish.

- c. Clayton moves to approve Luark's new design for headgate using the same amount of funding. Shawn second. Unanimous approval
2. Horse Pasture project #1
 - a. Final project ended up to be much smaller than the original project budget. They only submitted receipts for less than \$1000, which leaves about \$9000 left in the budget that we will need to reallocate.
 - b. How would we like to reallocate that funding? We would like Laura to ask Adam Ortega what our options are. Can we save that money for projects next year, can we absorb it into admin cost, etc?
3. Final Report
 - a. Laura showed us the final report that is due at the end of the month.

Seed Sale Update:

- Sale ends next Friday
- Total revenue \$4141.35, profit \$1766.52
- Delivery will go to Wendy's house, she is volunteering for purchasers to pick up from her house
- Do we want to buy extra?
 - Clayton propose we buy only what we need
 - Wendy suggest that we buy what we need but then if we get a lot of orders this fall we can put in another order (if we don't meet minimum we push them to next spring)
 - Ken requested that we buy 10 lb extra of dry native mt mix - if noone buys it he will purchase it for this fall.

Water Efficient Landscape Conversion Program Update:

- We are partnering with Watershed Council for this grant. James (ERWC) is in charge of education outreach, this is advantageous for the project because they have a large reach.
- ECCD is the project manager running all admin and running rebate program and demonstration sites.
- Seeking letters of support - need by October 19

CSU Ext & Vail Daily Column:

- ECCD & CSU are partnering to have a monthly column

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

1. September 21- Colorado River Watershed Association - Clayton will join Laura
2. September 22/23- Geofence tour with BLM, Forest Service, ECCD, NRCS
3. September 23- Eagle River Water Festival at CMC 8:30am to 2pm - Scott will help Laura with this

4. September 27-BoCC Meeting: Introducing “Water Efficient Landscape Conversion Program” 3:30 pm
5. October 17-19-QWEL (Qualified Water Efficient Landscaping) Training with ERWSD - Denyse & Laura will do that in Frisco
6. November 5- New Roots Fundraiser - ECCD potential beef sponsor
7. November 9-ECCD Annual Meeting
 - a. At Bruch Creek Pavilion
 - b. Wendy suggests Cowboy Catering
 - c. We will we want to do mail invites
 - i. Cliff suggests that we move away from direct mailing
 - ii. We agree, just focus on FB, flyers at all post offices, free press release in the Vail daily
 - d. Potential speakers
 - i. Christie from forest service (water savers)
 - ii. Roy Pholtzgraff (shawn will reach out)
 - e. Need to pick small & large conservationist of the year

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

NRCS Report:

- Drought monitor shows that we have come out of the drought in Eagle County. We are above average in Eagle River Basin.
- EQIP - NRCS thinking about upping payment rates - currently at 50-60%. Hoping to get influx of funds from current Biden programs so hoping to raise payment rates to 75-80% next year. Encourage more folks to implement. Trying to boost noxious weed management so looking to put those in more contracts to get more funds out to work on noxious weeds.
- New Engineer should be funded in the next couple weeks so hoping to have a new engineers back on staff by beginning of 2023
- NRCS has trainings for ECCD staff - remember to utilize this. They do not pay for travel & lodging but they cover the cost of trainings. This could be beneficial to utilize when we bring on Allegra. Also NRCS provides computers & access to resources & equipment for staff to use. Stephen will provide training list for Laura by getting her access to NRCS Ag Learn system (i.e. security clearance/ background check)
- NRCS is paying for application of compost, biochar and other soil amendments. Would like EQIP participants to understand that these things are an option. Soil test is required.

CSU Ext Update:

- Master Gardener applications are open until October 16th. Course start mid-January & goes until the end of April

Mail Review:

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2022

Adjourn: Scott S moves to adjourn

Notes taken by: Shawn Bruckman (Secretary)