EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda October 27th, 2021

5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility

**Meeting called to order at 5:39pm**

**Supervisors Present:** Scott Schlosser, Ken Marchetti, Shawn Bruckman, Clayton Gerard, Wendy Sacks

**Supervisors Absent:** Scott Jones, Jay Taylor

**Guests:** Josh Fitzsimmons, Brooke Fitzsimmons, Denyse Schrenker, Stephen Jaouen

**Approval of Minutes:** motion to approve Scott Schlosser, Ken seconded.

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held September 15th, 2021

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | - | - |
| Scott Schlosser | 11 | 115 |
| Wendy Sacks | 9 | 20 |
| Clayton Gerard | 5 | 15 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 25 | 120 |
| Jay Taylor | - | - |
| Ken Marchetti |  |  |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $37,782.07

Money Market Account balance: $30,656.97

Wendy attached the 2021 budget statements and reconciliation. She would like to go through with the board to update the budget for 2022 which is on a spreadsheet. Laura will create a working group with Ken and Wendy to go over the budget for 2022 as well as discuss expenses for going through the process of getting a Mil Levy.

Clayton wants to buy the no-till drill for sale through Garfield County. Scott Schlosser also agrees. The board discussed if can we buy it with county money. Originally they can cost up to $21,000. Stephen says it’s not in bad shape. Clayton offered to store it as his place. He also mentioned that if anything breaks upon renting it out, then the borrower/renter will have to pay for the damages. The no-till drill is $6,000. The board approved to buy it out of the county’s funds, if we can. Shawn mentioned that under the outreach and events section of the contract, there is a category for assisting landowners with resources and believes that the no-til drill will fit under that description. Ken made a motion to move forward with the purchase with or without county money and was seconded by Wendy. Once purchased, ECCD will try to reimburse the purchase through the county. Clayton will reach out to Emily to buy it and get a detailed invoice.

**Topics to Discuss:**

**Fitzsimmons On-Site Update**: Shawn update: Laura, Shawn, Clayton and Denyse met with Vanessa Wertheim to visit the Herbert Wertheim property. Her parents hold a big family foundation and bought the land a long time ago. Herbert and his wife live in Miami. He is interested in public schools, education, community and outreach. Vanessa will eventually acquire the property and would like to see the land restored. Josh Fitzsimmons has a history working with the land, but not currently. Josh and the board would like to see him back on the land and managing it under a contract with guaranteed assurance. Herbert is not interested in grants or funding; they would like to pay for any and all upgrades.

The land consists of 88 acres of working land. At the on-site visit we discussed long term soil building. It was mentioned that Herbert would love to have different uses on different parts of the land. Areas include: a targeted section for Josh to do land reclamation with animals and livestock, soil restoration, hay fields, and a spot Vanessa’s house and for her horses to come out in the summer. Lastly, Herbert loves education/outreach and it was suggested to build that into the plan as well and to provide opportunity for a demonstration site: getting kids on the land, partner with public schools or other local organizations such as the Vail Valley Foundation. This section/vision includes but is not limited to: a community or experimental garden or green house with crops, an area for classes or workshops (such as Denyse’s grazing school), and horticulture therapy. Scott S mentioned that health is very important to Herbert, so the community garden should implement health related plants and therapy -or holistic health care. The board discussed reaching out to Chris LaVenture, a horticulture farmer and conservationist of the year, and Patricia Esperon, a Master Gardener Manager for Vail Valley Salvation Army. Shawn also mentioned reaching out to New Roots for a permaculture design. There were further recommendations for wheel chair accessibility, electricity, and bees.

Land Management: Clayton mentioned that Josh needs to be leased the land to protect his work and interests and that we need to make it Herbert’s idea. Josh stated that water needs to be the implemented early in the plan with a sprinkler system. He also mentioned that Herbert prefers sidewalls to pivots. The other idea is to propose that ECCD manages and leases the land and then we sublease to Josh. It is our proposal and will be our responsibility to take ownership in land management with Josh operating it. As well, Laura will manage all of the partners and areas of land and be the main contact for Vanessa.

Stephen Jaouen stated that 10-15 years ago they built a proposal to Wertheim with experimental gardens and crops and will dig up his plans to share it with ECCD.

Shawn stated that it needs to be Herbert’s idea, his control, his choices, and that he really likes recognition. Providing an annual opportunity for decision making and utilizing the land under a foundation might attract his interest as well. She lastly mentioned that he is dyslexic and is a visual learner so a proposal with a lot of pictures will draw his attention best.

The board agreed that the subcommittee will include josh, Brooke, Stephen, Denyse, Clayton, Shawn, Ken, Wendy and Laura. Brooke mentioned that afternoon weekdays work best. Laura will first reach out to Stephen to acquire all documents that the NRCS originally proposed to Herbert.

**STAR Grant Update**: ECCD has been awarded the Soil Health Program grant. The stimulus funding amount is $126,000. $36,000 of this total is capacity support funding. $90,000 of that total is for producer participants in the form of incentive payments and equipment grants. There will be 7 participants including a neighboring district. The CDA will reach out with more information soon.

**Colorado Basin Roundtable Meeting Update**: The Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) is reviewing the language and looking for review and input. As of right now there is not an Ag voice present in the meetings and Shawn stated the importance of having the board review the projects up for funding. Laura stated that the District Manager email does not receive updates from the board on upcoming meetings and agendas. Shawn reached out to Jason and Angie to connect Laura with the Roundtable meetings.

**County $ for Events-** Laura asked for approval from the board to spend some of the County money on event equipment that included a tent and white board. Wendy made a motion for Laura to spend up to $300 on such event equipment and Scott seconded the motion.

**Logo & Rebranding Fund-** Shawn is waiting on quotes and portfolios from local marketers to help ECCD with re-branding and updating our logo.

**2022 Eagle County SOW**- Laura went through the Scope of Work for the 2022 Eagle County contract. She discussed a few additional items that were added to the scope. First was the Master Gardener Program. It is approximately 60 hours of training and $530. The board approved for Laura to proceed with the training course if the County approves of program. Laura then mentioned ideas for outreach and event opportunities including: Pesticide training workshops, irrigation workshops and audits and a program to connect local participants to local beef. This would include butcher classes, training and connecting producers to buyers. Lastly she recommended adding an education booth to next summers scope for outreach to locals in anticipation of striving for a Mil Levy. The board approved of these updates and Laura will send the rough draft out to Maureen with the County.

Lastly, Laura explained that there was a remaining $6,400 to distribute into the contract. This money was used for the Vence grant in 2021 and we now need to figure out how the spend the money for 2022. The board brought up the Mil levy and how to facilitate the initial steps of PR, price for a lawyer, consultant and overall budget required. They recommended that Laura reach out to Gretchen over in Makos County and to Ken to inquire about basic first steps. If the board approves, we can utilize this money for that.

**Colorado River District (CRD) Community Funding Partnership**- Laura told the board that Kathy Chandler-Henry reached out and encouraged the ECCD to look into the CRD Community Funding Partnership grant opportunity. The board agreed that the funds would work great with the ECCD Irrigation Asset Inventory Project and the 25 participants within the project. The board discussed whether or not the Conservation District should apply for the grant or reach out to the participants and provide the DM info for help in applying themselves. Since the participants are anonymous, it was agreed that Laura will reach out to SGM to follow through with the participants and encourage them to apply, and to reach out to Laura if they need help with the application. As well, in the email ECCD will provide an option to sign up for the ECCD Newsletter which will also provide information in applying for the grant. Laura will reach out to Wendy for the SGM contact information.

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

**NRCS Report**: Stephen mentioned tolook on CPR for an article about Pat Luark and the Vence project. He is hoping to kick some interest in the NRCS about the ECCD CIG grant application.He is hoping that the public outreach will help us out a little. In other news, Stephen is gathering numbers for pasture and hay range losses and will put together a report. He is looking for any and all input- if ranchers have experienced any loss. He is encouraging ECCD and other ranchers to reach out and call Stephen with any information on the subject. Clayton mentioned to reach out to Terry Porter, who has experienced some loss. Lastly, he stated that the NRCS has finished all obligations- $750,000 in contracts. They are working on getting those up and running for projects up and operational by next spring. Eagle County is still in drought, but the last months of moisture has been good. There has also been a good indicator of rain fall and snowfall for fall.

**CSU Ext Update: N/A**

**Mail Review:** Taxation- Mil Levy

**Next Meeting Date: November 10th, 2021**

**Adjourn: 8:00pm by Clayton, seconded by Wendy**

**Notes taken by: Laura Bohannon (District Manager)**