



# EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

**Meeting called to order at:** 5:42pm

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

**Supervisors Absent:**

**Guests:** Denyse Schrenker, Stephen Jaouen, Rick Bumgardner

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved by Wendy, seconded by Ken. Motion passes

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held October 12, 2022

<b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>HOURS</u></b>	<b><u>MILES</u></b>
Scott Jones	20	150
Scott Schlosser	12	30
Wendy Sacks	8	20
Clayton Gerard	6	14
Shawn Bruckman	9	1
Jay Taylor	6	0
Ken Marchetti	6	20

**Treasurer's Report:**

**[Master Budget 2022/2023](#)**

Ken noted that moving forward, board members should review the budget before each board meeting and the District Manager will announce any new amended/noteable budget items.

Under the salary row, Ken would like to post the gross, not the net (rather than put her salary taxes under the taxes line item). Wendy noted that it is harder to reconcile with Laura and Allegra's payroll. Wendy and Laura will look into next month.

Laura stated that the CDA approved the Gerards no-till drill equipment grant application, so \$40,000 additional dollars will come into the Conservation Districts account, and ECCD will write a check to the Gerards to purchase a No-till drill.

Final Adoption of Budget: Wendy moves to adopt the budget as presented, seconded by Scott S, motion passes. Laura will meet with Ken about updating the resolution, due Jan 31st.

### **Topics to Discuss:**

#### Noxious Weed Applications:

1. The board made note of the need to update the weed application. The language for labor and maximum payment is confusing and ECCD will work on a new application for 2023.
2. Dian Gaston- The board approved to fund \$75 per person for labor and for the \$96 in seed. The same labor rate was applied to all.
3. Shawn reviewed all of the applications and approved of the remaining applications, after reviewing Dian Gaston's request.
4. Jay noted that Chucks only requested \$296. Stephen suggested that all applications be the same for labor paid. Adjustments were made to Dian Gaston's application. Wendy motioned for the new approved funding applications, seconded by Clayton. All in favor, motion passes.

#### Long Range Plan:

1. Scott S suggested adding the no-till drill and seed program under soil.
2. Ken noted to add dates under the operational goals
3. Scott S would like for Laura to specify the objective under meetings (Water Objective B).
4. Once these 3 items have been addressed, Clayton voted to approve the Long Range Plan to be submitted to DOLA. Ken seconded, motion passes.

Health Insurance + Retirement Update: Laura compared the two health insurance plans, Kemper and CEBT. After describing the pros and cons of each plan, Laura noted that the price of both plans were very similar, once adding taxes to the Kemper plan. Laura requested to move forward with the CEBT PP05 plan starting January 2023. Ken made a motion to approve the PPO5 insurance plan with 83% district contribution. Seconded by Scott S, motion passes.

Laura will continue to work with Ken on building a retirement plan.

#### Program Updates:

Star Plus Program- CDA hired John Miller as the new program manager. The CDA is also looking to hire more staff to implement the new star plus program with 5-7 more techs; the funding for ECCD for 2023 is not clear yet- The board suggested we do a soil sample every year and not just third year. All approved to fund the samples.

Drought- All projects except for two have been completed. The Luarks, and Mark Chapin project are still being finalized. The final report has been submitted to the CDA.

Vence Meeting- Laura stated that on Thursday, November 15 ECCD will be hosting a VENCE meeting with producer and stakeholders to review the first season of geofencing program and to discuss the pros and cons of the technology. Stephen commented on the importance of this meeting and stated that the NRCS is exploring ways to incentivize collars. National notice is taking place and teleconferences with the USDA are occurring on geofencing and collars. Multiple agencies are looking at the technology. Stephen appreciates honest feedback provided by the producers.

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

**NRCS Report:** Not much to report, Stephen is still fulfilling a larger role regionally. This regional role will end in March and he will come back to the resource team lead for our area. Snow is above average in both Colorado headwaters: Colorado river is 16% above normal, and the Eagle river is 22% above normal. Drought has dropped off in Eagle county. Resource team 3- personnel acting duty of the state, Kara, comes down a couple days a week to help with contracts with Stephanie. The NRCS is looking for an engineering position, hopefully it will happen soon. Then they need to hire to replace Dayton. All the processing is taking too long. National funds coming in through the IRA (inflation reduction act) and teh NRCS will get a fair chunk of funds for technical assistance in the state. NRCS can't support funds + staff, Districts think about how we can partner for technicians, implement technician positions with partnership with NRCS. They will need help and NRCS HR takes too long. NRCS will provide training. Duties include: provide 50-60% towards NRCS programs including the farm bill program, EQIP, etc, and the other portion can be district related aimed towards climate smart work, forestry, forest health, landscape initiatives, drought and/or water. Stephen then noted to keep wildfire mitigation in mind. Wildfire ready watersheds is a new non profit popping up within the county and wants ECCD to be "in the know".

#### **CSU Ext Update:**

- Staffing updates; eagle county commissioners approved their budget and they can hire part time administration. It will be a part time position. State classified as a CSU Employee. Grand county is looking for an extension director. Organized into regions,

our local CSU Extension is located in the mountain region & they hired a regional specialist focused on food and agriculture- Derek Laustruder. Denyse will introduce us to him. Starting Jan 1st they will not be agents and be referred as county extension specialists. Lastly, CSU Ext will be engaged in a civil rights audit starting 2023- working on plans to improve demographics and targeted engagement with hispanic community and males. Scott Jones can give some contacts.

**Mail Review: N/A**

**Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2023**

**Adjourn: 7:56pm**

**Notes taken by: Laura Bohannon, District Manager**