



# EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda May 11th, 2022

5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility

**Meeting called to order at: 5:46pm**

**Supervisors Present: Wendy, Ken, Jay, Clayton, Shawn, Scott S**

**Supervisors Absent: Scott Jones**

**Guests: N/A**

**Approval of Minutes: motion to approve (Jay move to approve)**

**Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held February 9th, 2022**

<b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>HOURS</u></b>	<b><u>MILES</u></b>
Scott Jones	-	-
Scott Schlosser	18	25
Wendy Sacks	10	20
Clayton Gerard	10	14
Shawn Bruckman	30	100
Jay Taylor	10	0
Ken Marchetti	0	0

**Treasurer's Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: \$ 58,269.01

Money Market Account balance: \$30,658.36

Laura & Wendy meet monthly to review finances and update quickbooks. Eagle County is very responsive in paying invoices promptly. Received \$20K from STAR already.

Booth sand bags- Under \$50

- Purpose to keep the event tent from blowing away
- Discussion: recommend to get 4x 5 gal bucket, fill halfway with sakrete
- Ken move to approve budget, shawn second, all approve

#### Budget Update

- Laura has updated budget to include all the grant funding that we have received
- Reviewed
- DM Allowance- we will call this Expense Reimbursement budget item - pre approved budget line item for Laura to have a accountable reimbursement each month that she can submit
- Wendy moves to allow Laura to use her discretion to submit reimbursement for small expenses that she has during meetings and PR activities (i.e. coffee, lunch, miles, etc)
- Shawn moves to allocate \$600 of budget to provide food at board meetings (up to \$50 per meeting) all approved. Laura start bringing food as of next month

#### **Topics to Discuss:**

##### ERWSD + CoAgMet Update-

Wendy, Cliff & Laura met with Chris Wolff, an engineer for ERWSD. He is interested in setting up a couple CoAgMet stations and wanted to learn more about how ours work and if they decide to move forward could they connect theirs to our network. He is looking to incorporate these into their Water Smart program. Wondering if ECCD has any funding to put toward this? At this time we do not but there is potential for us to work with them next year to collaborate to get an intern through ECCD to provide an education piece to compliment their science piece. They are aware the homeowners are uneducated about their water use and hoping this could help them and their landscapes to better understand their irrigation zones. Wondering if the irrigation clocks can tie into CoAgMet stations? Intern could be called an "Irrigation Water Management Specialist". We would like to see this employed with ECCD, with funding help from ERWSD and they would work with both homeowners and landscapers to educate and implement best practices to be smarter about water use.

Knapp Ranch says they have a CoAgMet station but it is not showing up on the CSU database. Laura will reach out, Wendy will see someone who works there is weekend and ask around as well.

##### Rebrand -

Renaming guidelines require that we need at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our landowners to approve us changing bylaws (aka changing our name) we interpret this as having approval of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the attendees at our annual meeting. (see email that laura sent out with all details from Nikki)

We need to make sure we have a good name option if we are going to change it. Some ideas are High Rockies CD, Central Rockies CD, High Mountain CD - Majority like High Mountain Conservation District.

##### PR Update -

- Laura will resend the list of organizations that we are reaching out to. We all need to go on and put our names next to the organizations that we can help meet with
- Cliff is using that same document to make notes about each meeting and what kind of responses we are getting from each of these organizations - please have him also include next step recommendations for us
- **Ken emphasizes that we need guidance on how to best get our name out there and make sure we are taking the right steps now to develop the relationships we will need when it comes time to go to the voters. Would like to make sure to be utilizing Vail Daily** - Laura please make sure this is passed on to Cliff.
- Our budget to utilize Kristen for social media is up. Do we want to reimburse?

Discussion:

- How much would it cost? \$1500 for 4 months.
- How impactful has it been so far? In the last 30 days 5629 views, 322 engagements, 139 followers. You can see that engagement and views have dropped drastically since our contract with her stopped at the beginning of May.
- We need to utilize social media strategically moving forward. Laura will talk to Cliff for recommendations and ask Kristin what the cost will be to hire her for the rest of the year so we can vote on it

CACD Grant Opportunity- Demonstration Project

- Discussion: Shawn and Clayton explained the project and are abstaining from voting since they have interest in the project
- Ken moved to approve the grant submission of up to \$10,000 with up to \$7,500 ask from the grant and up to \$2,500 match from ECCD. Jay seconded. Motion pass unanimous
- Shawn and Laura will finalize application details and submit before the end of the week.

No till rental-

1. Contract assistance-

- Need to make sure we have someone available to hand off the drill when people pick it up and to inspect when it is returned. Do we need to pay someone to oversee this machine, answer questions, regular maintenance, and fix things that break? Sounds like this is going to be a full time job in the spring and fall. We will need an inspection log.
- Jay and Clayton can both contribute to maintaining the machine and fixing things that break, and reimburse for any parts and supplies
- Wendy makes motion to pay for someone to perform these services at a set rate per rental (with a base of \$40/hour rate) and to revisit what that set amount will be next month after Clayton and Jay have had a chance to perform a few rentals in May. Ken seconds. All in favor.

2. Hitch-

- We need to buy a 2" receiver because the drill doesn't use a regular ball for hauling. Can we buy this?

- Laura will check with insurance company to add drill to our coverage and also make sure there is no liability concern for us offering a hitch to tow as well
- Confirmed that there is verbiage in our lease agreement to ensure renter knows that they are personally liable for any damages related to usage and transportation.

#### Vence-

1. Reimbursement Draft Approval
2. Contractor- \$35/hr; 114 hrs/year; 38/month for 3 months; 8.75 hours/week
  - Turns out Vence is in over their head and is not providing the support that our participants need
  - Laura is proposing to sell one of our towers to pay a contractor to provide this support locally. BLM is willing to buy up to 4 of our towers (although we only need to sell one right now) Vence is ok with us selling a tower and reallocating the money to other areas of our budget (i.e. paying a contractor to provide more support service)
  - Laura has approached Glenda Luark to see if she is interested in being this contractor if approved by the board, since she has been helping all of the participants for free already. She spends about 4 hours per participant to coach them how to use the technology when they first come on.
  - Shawn moves to sell one tower to BLM and use the money for contract labor to support participants in utilizing vance technology in our district and any other small budget items laura needs to accomplish vance program goals. Ken seconds, motion passes unanimously.
3. Car Rental-
  - a. Review 2 options-
    - Option 1: get a rental car as planned but it looks like this will cost upwards of \$14K+ (however, we only budgeted for \$11K) Also consider that the rental car might not have the capacity to get to the places we need the technicians to go.
    - Option 2 : Steven gets an NRCS truck for us to use. It would need to be stored on USDA government property but Jess said there is forest service property that we can park it on so that's not a concern. (This is the best option but it is still not fully approved) Our MOU with NRCS already includes access to NRCS vehicles and would include coverage and a gas card. We would need to cover the insurance of our drivers. The most challenging part is finding a truck available in the summer while they are in high demand. Wendy needs to check with our insurance to make sure we have an auto policy that covers our technicians as drivers (we do not need to cover the truck itself, just the drivers)

- Wendy suggests Option 3: ask the interns if we can reimburse them to use their own vehicle (@ 58.5 cents per mile plus gas)

#### STAR update-

1. All participant consultations and initial soil sample events are complete
2. Biosolids - Steven reminds us that biosolids need extensive permitting for land application - Shawn and Scott S will talk to Jason Cowels from CDPHE and CDPHE to see what we need to do to promote more biosolid use in our area
3. Equipment- we can purchase equipment up until september 2022. They might consider reimbursing for our no-till drill. Also a manure spreader is a piece of equipment that comes up a lot during the consultation because many participants do not have a way fo spreading amendments recommended by their

#### Seed Sales-

- Update from Pawnee Butte Seed. Shawn got pricing on 3 different seed mixes
- We can sell seed but need to pay sales tax unless the customer is tax exempt
- We need to talk to CSU Ext about how/where to store the seeds.
- How do we pay/who is in charge/where is it stored

#### Drought Update-

- Laura is having a hard time getting ahold of some of the applicants
- One applicant already did the project before approval and they didn't follow the original plan so we cannot fund her project. We now have \$7,125 to distribute. The board directed Laura to approach Schlegel's to offer the

#### Annual Meeting-

- Date/Location: Board is leaning toward Brush Creek Pavilion in Eagle in Early to late November (maybe Wed Nov 9 or any other wednesday or thursday in the second or third week of november) Wed nov 9th is between hunting seasons so that would be a good option

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

#### **NRCS Report:**

Eagle river at confluency predicts about 75% to pass through which is about 250K acres feet of water instead of normal which is 315K acre feet of water. Median topped out at 385 feet of water. Colorado Predicting 18000 acre feet instead of 2210 verage. Roaring fork and grand mesa did well but not upper C and eagle river.

Annual review of NRCS/ ECCD MOU: prohibition disclosure, privacy info non-disclosure, encouraged to attend civil rights training, fed assistance prohibits descrimination, guarantee fairness & equal treatment, program outreach at all levels, equal opportunity public notification & resources in NRCS office.

**CSU Ext Update: n/a**

**Mail Review:n/a**

**Next Meeting Date: June 8, 2022**

**Adjourn: 9:02 pm**

**Notes taken by: Shawn Bruckman (Secretary)**