EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 8, 2018

5:00 pm, 3289 Cooley Mesa Road, Gypsum, CO

**Meeting called to order by Shawn at 5:14pm**

**Supervisors Present: Scott S, Kirk, Shawn, Jay, Wendy and Clayton**

**Supervisors Absent: Scott J**

**Guests: Ken Marchetti and Kathy Chandler**

**Approval of Minutes motioned by Wendy seconded by Shawn**

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held June 13, 2018

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | - |  - |
| Scott Schlosser (from April) | 38 | 150 |
| Wendy Sacks | 15 | 40 |
| Clayton Gerard |  |  |
| Kirk Pliske | 4 | 35 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 40 |  20 |
| Jay Taylor | 12 |  56 |

***Treasurer’s Report:***

Alpine Checking Account balance: $15,240.45

Money Market Account balance: $30,615.49

***Old Business***

*Eagle County Rodeo*- Location was great, next to a beer tent. A lot of locals but most weren’t large landowners that irrigate their lands. Thursday was slow because of Eagle County employee night. A lot of people signed up for the email list. Scott S mentioned we should do more programs that relate to more folks i.e. seeds, compost tea, etc. Use the same signs that Shawn made for next year-perhaps get an easel to hold the signs. The koozies seemed to help with attracting folks over to the booth. The giant save water sign seemed to work well to get people’s attention. Wendy is getting grommets put into the ECCD banner. Have the website on the koozies for next year. Shawn asked if there are any brands we’re not allowed to promote, as long as there are no conflicts of interest. The Walking Mountains Interns volunteered- there were 6 interns and they worked from 3:30-7pm on Saturday. Folks were looking for alternatives to round up. Need a bigger table next year since we have to supply our own table (maybe donated from the County?). All of the items were left under the table during the night for the next day. More folks stopped by with faces they recognized working behind the booth, i.e. Wendy and Jay attracted more people than the interns. Maybe have something for people with smaller lawns-appeal to more people since everyone is interested in saving water- save water save money ask us how tagline?

*Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan*- Scott S said he feels a lot of pressure representing the entire ag community, he wants to talk to the board and give the representatives of our community a chance to voice their opinion. Sending emails isn’t the best way to reach ag community members. The message needs to be clearer and the board needs to discuss things in depth more. Every diversion isn’t used for growing food but that doesn’t mean those diversions shouldn’t be included i.e. golf courses. Scott S asked for the board members to read the emails from Stephen and Brendon and give their opinion. Although communication was attempted it wasn’t clear and it wasn’t done in a way that was inclusive, i.e. board members were apparently invited but no one remembers being invited. The Board would like some of the grant funds to put in the effort needed to make this project a success. This is going to be a long process. Efforts seem to be focused on up valley and needs to be more inclusive. It is the board’s responsibility to be involved, so how does the board get more involved? We need funds in order to properly communicate to the ag community. The end result of this project is to inform legislation and future planning that pertains to water conservation; however that can be detrimental if the Board is unfamiliar with the study and is unaware of what is going on, especially for future grant opportunities.

Communication, partnership and explaining how ag water affects the whole community and why it’s important to include it in the plan, are things we should focus on in the future. Is the Board interested in being an advisory role or a lead role? Board members need to read through the plan description and emails and come up with questions and concerns to discuss with Holly at our next meeting.

There is an article in the Vail Daily from Oct 7, 2017 that refers to this plan but the article only mentions recreation and environmental reasons, nothing was mentioned about agriculture.

After an hour of discussing the plan, Kathy C from the County arrived to the meeting, she agrees that ag use should be at the table not just municipal and recreational uses.

***New Business***

*Seed Sales*-native grass seed sales, Jefferson Conservation District popped up when googled. It would be a good thing to do at the Fair and Rodeo, we could collaborate with CSU ext? Shawn is going to look into partnering with CSU ext. This would be for smaller yards, not large acreage land since that would be out of the scope of the District. This could turn into a good educational opportunity to promote native species and why combating invasive species is so important. This lead to the tree sales that the District does, and how we can promote the sales better so we get more people to order trees next year. Wildfire mitigation as well. Use the tree/seed sales as another educational opportunity. Make sure the forms make it clear that anyone can purchase the seedlings, not just landowners with a certain amount of acreage. Make the list of trees more clear to the buyers, i.e. included photos and a brief description.

Scott G mentioned to Scott S that the District should be in charge of doing a weed cost share program again, funding from the County? The District wants to have more authority of the program if we’re going to do it again, i.e. not having to go through Scott G every time the Board needed something. It is a big time commitment and the District might not have the resources needed to run the program.

 *Second CoAgMet station status*- Megan H from the State inquired about the status of the second CoAgMet station since she hasn’t received an invoice, we have until the end of the month to let you know what are plans are or we might lose the grant funds which expire on December 31. The initial idea was to put in on Hardscrabble Ranch but that process is taking too long, so we need to find another location for the station. The District needs to figure out if the County will cover the maintenance fee of the station, since that’s what holding things up. Scott S needs to follow up with Diane with the County since putting it on Hardscrabble will be another good educational opportunity. Ask Megan how difficult and long the extension process is and how long it’s good for. Tell her that the County is in the planning process and we might have a better idea before the end of the year.

**Other Business:** Kathy mentioned that people asked her about Eagle County being a declared a drought area, which the Forest Service handles. Eagle County is eligible for drought loans since Garfield County was declared in a severe drought to help pay for hay. Scott S said that a lot of people are reaching out to him as to where to buy hay. ERWSD is asking people to limit their outdoor water use but just suggestions at this time no mandates.

**NRCS Report: N/A since Stephen J didn’t attend the meeting.**

**Mail Review: The Colorado Outdoors Magazine**

**Next Meeting Date: September 12, 2018**

**Adjourn: Clayton made the motion at 7.22pm seconded by Scott S.**

**Notes taken by: Courtney Grant (District Manager)**