EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda January 12, 2022

5:30pm at the Road and Bridge Facility.

**Meeting called to order at 5:31pm**

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

**Supervisors Absent:** N/A

**Guests:** Jessica Foulis, Todd Parker, Peter Sunesen, Nicholas Krick, Denyse Schrenker, Kara Vigneau

**Approval of Minutes:** motion to approve

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held December 8th, 2021

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 60 | 0 |
| Scott Schlosser | 12 | 40 |
| Wendy Sacks | 6 | 0 |
| Clayton Gerard | 8 | 100 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 15 | 46 |
| Jay Taylor | 5 | 0 |
| Ken Marchetti | 6 | 0 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $ 24,693.94 (plus check from EC for 24,056.60)

Money Market Account balance: $30,657.74

CC to FB- Wendy talked to bank and ken to determine the best way to hook up a payment source to Facebook and it was agreed to get a debit card to bank account.

Turner Payroll- Wendy announced that Turner was turning over to ADP. She looked into a new payroll provided and was recommended American Business Solutions- They provide a $60 processing fee and $100 for setup Ken approved of the new payroll provider and both Scott Jones and Scott Schlosser seconded.

**Topics to Discuss:**

EVLT- Conservation Easement Credit Announcement- Jessica briefly discussed, through a PowerPoint, the history of the Eagle Valley Land Trust and what they do. She then provided a newly passed tax benefit or financial incentive. The state tax credits increased from 50% to 90%. She expressed that the compensation rate right now is an incredible opportunity for landowners and that this unique opportunity might not last forever. She recommends landowners to seek independent financial, legal and tax consolations and for the board to reach out with any further inquiry or questions. She also wanted to clarify that in the Open Space ballot language, section B(3) it states that a majority vote of the people in a general election or special election is required to transfer a parcel out of the Open Space Program, not 2/3 vote.

VENCE Update- Director of VENCE- Todd Parker, through a PowerPoint, introduced the history and technology of VENCE. It is a startup company out of San Diego, from about 6 years ago. He states that they are in their “early days” with things finally taking off. He mentioned other grant awardees and expressed this as an opportunity for “real time monitoring and control” of animal. He later discussed current towers and satellite reach with the BLM and Forest Service covering about 360,000 acres of land. He stated that Pat Luark is up and running with 6 towers now. He recommended where to begin placing new towers and is ready to have the conversation for next steps. He mentioned as well what Jessica Pettee and Kristy Lerner have been acquiring for BLM and Forest Service in terms of maps, access and classifications. He stated that tower operation in Forest Service is not yet in CO, but do exist and that it is not a new conversation with recommending a subcommittee.

He mentioned that he is ready to get us equipment now, or in parallel with funding, as long as the grant rules permit us. He also stated that as participants come, we can talk tower placement and collars. Clayton mentioned Josh Fitzsimmons and Jessica Hernreich up at Royal Elk, Hardscrabble ranchers, and the Baumgardeners. Jones would like to see towers up by Sweetwater, willow creek and out west along the edge of our boundaries. Clayton asked Todd for a collar to test out to show neighbors.

Todd will be in Colorado next wee to attend the CCA mid-winter coference and said that he would be happy to meet next Thursday or Friday. Clayton agreed to meet sometime after 4pm. Laura will email a subcommittee crew and get a “meet and greet” date going with everyone.

Laura mentioned the need to determine an experimental Design- Todd said to reach out to Fitch Fanch in Kremling, CSU Extension is also working out in Carbondale doing rangeland testing, soil science, and animal behavior. Scott Jones inquired about predator behavior. Todd said that since tracking animal movement, their signature behavior has been to gather tighter and is curious if that will keep them closer and more resilient against wolf attacks.

STAR Update- Nicholas Krick introduced himself to the board. He owns 4 ranches in South Side Conservation District and would like to be participate in the STAR Program. He is the vice president for the SSCD. Jones asked if there were anyone else in his district that might be interested and Laura will inquire if we can have two participants in neighboring districts. After his introductions, Laura mentioned the amended budget amount in regards to participant matches and equipment matches. Ken would like to see a separate budget for STAR funding and Shawn will help Laura submit a letter of expression in the changed funding amount. Laura will also obtain a better timeline and inquire about the SOW. The board then made a final vote on the participants: Clayton Gerard, Mike Leaderhouse, Pat and Nikki Luark, Kori Landaouer, Terry Porter and Nicholas Krick. We have still have room for 1 more participant.

Drought Grant Criteria & Guidelines- Laura asked what’s the criteria for our awardee selection? Scott Jones said that it would even out the playing field if we fund money just for materials If we awarded $ for time, we would need to set an amount. Shawn stated that it would be harder for smaller landowners if we just funded materials. The benefit of including labor opens up the opportunity to include more participants unlike EQIP. At the end, everyone agreed for projects to just be funded for materials. Scott Schlosser made the motion for materials only and Wendy seconded stating that otherwise we would have more to worry about. The board agreed to prioritize awards based on these factors: New projects and most beneficial to water conservation.

Final Budget Approval and Budget Resolution- Laura has acquired Scott Jones signature, needs Wendys and the board approval, then will submit the file to DOLA. Ken and Shawn would like to see a line a the bottom explaining why the reserves are so high. As well, in Drought grant expenditure Ken requested to change the amount from $45,000 to $50,000. Ken made a motion (with the provisions requested) to approve of the budget. Jay seconded.

Logo- All agreed on 1a and 1b. Ken stated that he would like to see a tagline in our logo. For example, Douglas County says: Douglas conservers; He states that it would be helpful to add something to ours so that people know what we do. Options discussed, clean water, healthy soil; improving our resources for clean water and healthy soils; conserving and restoring natural resources. Denyse recommended to go with something similar to our mission statement. The board approved of: conserving and restoring natural resources. They also agreed for our name to be large, and tagline to be small. It was agreed to change our mission statement from preserving to conserving. Shawn made the motion on both the logo, tagline and mission statement with Jay seconding the motion.

PR Consultant- Ken stated that we need to solicit for polling. We have $5,000 in our budget for this year, and we should be looking for proposals from someone to help us. He says lets gather proposals but not yet commitment; we can review in February. Criteria agreed upon- reach out to enough people and hope for 3 more proposals. ken voted and made a motion for proposal review in February and Shawn seconded.

Elections- Laura inquired about the three election forms: SD-4, 5 & 6. Scott Jones said we never did SD4 & 5 in the past. Ken says that his other boards do, and hold on to the files. Ken motioned for Laura to be the DEO and run the election announcement. He will help her. Jay seconded. All favored.

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

**NRCS Report:**

**CSU Ext Update:** CSU spur is happening and is open to the public- science and research. Denyse says you can watch vet surgery!

**Mail Review: 2 magazines**

**Next Meeting Date: February 9th, 2022**

**Adjourn: 8:41 pm**

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