EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 14, 2018

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

**Meeting called to order by Scott J at 5:04pm**

**Supervisors Present: Scott J, Scott S, Wendy, Clayton, and Shawn**

**Supervisors Absent: Jay and Kirk**

**Guests: Lizzie S, Ken N, Kathy C, and Stephen J**

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

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held September 12, 2018

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 100 | 50 |
| Scott Schlosser | 30 | 125 |
| Wendy Sacks | 6 | 20 |
| Clayton Gerard | 3 | 12 |
| Kirk Pliske | - | - |
| Shawn Bruckman | 10 | 60 |
| Jay Taylor | - | - |

***Treasurer’s Report:***

Alpine Checking Account balance: $ 14,074.58

Money Market Account balance: $ 30,619.35

**Deep** **Creek Presentation**- Ken from American Rivers and Lizzie from the ERWC lead the discussion.

2015 the Forest Service and the BLM found Deep Creek suitable for wild and scenic designation. 1968 a Bill passed to protect the free flowing nature of streams. ORV outstanding remarkable Values, Deep Creek has 3 (ORVs) longest and largest cave system. Groaning Cave is 13 miles long, the longest in the state, Fixing to Die cave is another cave on the property. You can only have a Wild and Scenic designation on Federal Land not private. After designation a separate management plan will need to be developed and will have heavy public input. Bair and Deep Creek Ranch are the two ranches that could be affected by changes in grazing permits in the future. Lizzie formally invited the Board to a meeting on November 29th 1-3pm at CMC in Edwards to address grazing concerns and a general invitation to participate as a stakeholder. There will be another meeting on December 5th and another one in February. The BLM and the Forest Service will be the parties creating the management plan and will be asking for public input, American Rivers and ERWC will be advocating for the agricultural community and preserving ranchers grazing permits. This designation won’t affect day to day operations of agriculturists, the designation is to keep the status quo not change things. The larger stakeholder group created the guiding principles that will be used to create the legislative language. Tipton and Gardner Senate offices have been involved throughout the process. Wild and Scenic designation hasn’t been popular in Colorado because of its restrictions on water development. Deep Creek is currently under the White River broad management plan and will stay there if it doesn’t get the Wild and Scenic designation. Limestone mining is a big concern if this designation doesn’t pass.

***Old Business***

*Colorado River District Annual Seminar-* Scott said it was very much a political event since there were a lot of politicians speaking, a lot on water law. An interesting presentation was on a massive diversion project proposal for Saint George that didn’t mention agriculture at all.Kathy mentioned thatDemand Management was a common theme because the Colorado River is so diverted already and she thinks that the Front Range is trying to make a power play that Ag should pay attention to.

*Second CoAgMet Station Update-* Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space is the new name for the Hardscrabble Ranch project. Diane who was unable to attend had some questions that were sent to Scott S, she wants to see the first CoAgMet station on Jay Taylor’s land so she can see it in person and see how it works. Kathy did have a question on the maintenance schedule and access, which the CSU tech would need. Stephen explained to Kathy the maintenance issues and how the troubleshooting is done. The station needs cell service so it can communicate to the online site to report the data. There was a brief description of where the best location at the Ranch would be.

Eagle River Community Water Plan- there was a presentation last night in the town of Eagle, Scott S will get a copy of the presentation and send it to the DM who will distribute to the Board Members. Scott S said it was a good presentation and the agricultural community was the first thing Holly mentioned.

***New Business***

*CACD Annual Meeting*- Scott J is going and Shawn is interested in the motion by Clayton to send Shawn to the meeting seconded by Scott S. She is going to attend on Wednesday November 28 and will be getting a room on Tuesday night, location of hotel TBD.

Scott J asked the Board to sponsor breaks at the CACD annual meeting which would be used to pay for snacks and beverages he asked for $300 and Kathy said that Eagle County would donate $300.

*Go Daddy-* Wendy made a motion to go with the new version for the 5 year renewal Clayton seconded the motion. The DM will contact Go Daddy to pay for the new version. DM will have to create a new website, the Board approved the time it will take for the new website, DM quoted 4-6 hours to create the new website.

**Other Business:** DM talked about the conversation with Tony Waldron from Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc. and the Southeast Weld County Conservation District that was had in October. They sell native seed packets that the Board could sell at upcoming events.

Shawn is inviting the new CSU extension officer to the ECCD’s next Board Meeting on Dec 12 2018.

Scott S mentioned that Kirk Pliske’s house is closing tomorrow and that he’ll be resigning from the Board. Myron Alt and Ken Marchetti are both interested in Kirk’s Board Member position.

The Board would like to apply for the Weed Cost Share Grant the DM will look into the requirements and apply before the deadline.

Shawn asked when the Board’s annual meeting will be and Scott J mentioned that we should try to do the meeting in February and with the ERWC so the ag community can hear about the Eagle River Community Water Plan and Deep Creek.

Stephen mentioned that the Garfield County Ag expo is on February 2nd there will be a focus on water. Scott J thinks the whole board should attend.

Shawn mentioned that a local food group wants to attend the Board’s next meeting to share who they are and what they do, Shawn will coordinate the invite.

**NRCS Report:** EUIP is going to change how it’s managed, they’re going to start splitting the money into teams, Stephen will be in charge of his own team and the Board will have input as to what the funds should be used for. The Board will give suggestions but Stephen will have the final say.

TCP is going to happen again but he’s not sure what that will look like, he will send the DM more info.

El Jebel and Basalt areas that were affected by the Lake Christine Fire are asking for EWP funds which are at the State and National level being spearheaded by Parks and Wildlife since a partnership through Eagle County didn’t happen.

Stephen hired Kathleen Night a transfer from Vermont, she’s a soil conservationist. Some other hiring was done but he hasn’t hired an engineer yet, so hopefully Congress will pass legislation soon that will allow for more new hires, he’s hoping by next summer.

**Mail Review:** Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc. sent a seed packet, 5 Guide to Grasses and 10 2018 Pricelists for seeds.

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

**Adjourn:** Motioned by Scott S 7:03pm

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