EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2019

5:00 pm, 3289 Cooley Mesa Road, CO 81637

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

**Supervisors Present: Scott J, Shawn, Ken, Clayton & Jay**

**Supervisors Absent: Wendy, Scott S**

**Guests: Stephen J, Doug R, & Denyse S**

**Approval of Minutes motioned by Shawn, seconded by Jay all Board Members approved**

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held November 13, 2019

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 80 | 1200 |
| Scott Schlosser | - | - |
| Wendy Sacks | - | - |
| Clayton Gerard | 8 | 28 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 50 | 700 |
| Jay Taylor | 5 | 7 |
| Ken Marchetti | 19 | 362 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $15,928.09

Money Market Account balance: $30,647.75

**Topics to Discuss:**

Noxious Weed Grant- ECCD will be partnering with Eagle County who is also partnering with Town of Eagle and Town of Gypsum. The Cost-share portion of the grant would be handled by the ECCD Board and the details of the requirements for the grant will be figured out after the grant is awarded. There was a discussion of what type of contributions the District can make as far as in-kind and cash. The Board voted on how much money we would match and figure out the details later, Clayton made a motion, Ken seconded to donate $2,500 of cash to match on the cost-share all present board members voted and approved that amount. Doug Riggins will be finishing up the grant soon since it’s due on Monday 12/16/19.

New CoAgMet Station- Installed November 19, 2019 and is now reporting on the the CoAgMet station website. Courtney will finish submitting all of the paperwork this weekend and Wendy will send the final invoice.

Annual Event- February 26th first choice, then March 11th at the Brush Creek Pavilion. Use the same caterer as last year. The Board discussed who could possibly do the presentation, Jim Pokrandt to give a presentation on the analysis compact call on water rights, similar to the Garfield County Conservation Districts presentation he gave. It will be a zero waste event again, Honey Wagon will take the recycling and compost for free.

Meeting updates-Ken went to the CAWA alliance meeting in Loveland “Implementing the Colorado Water Plan”, Phil Brink from the CCA, Stream mgmt. planning, Mancos Conversation District presented, Alex Funk presented from CWCB about a grant that’s due on February 1st, however the grant is for really large projects so getting a homeowner willing to participate and apply for the grant in time isn’t likely, look into it for next year since the turnaround is too quick. There were discussions on storage, ATMs (Alternative Transformative Mechanisms). Shawn made a motion to reimburse Ken and Scott S’s cost for attending the CAWA meeting, Jay seconded all present board members approved, Ken abstained.

Scott J attended the CACD annual meeting- Flood Plan Mapping was rewrote, a lot of action items were discussed like at least one member from every Conservation District be on the roundtable. BLM office being located in Grand Junction, if there’s an issue it needs to go through Denver, they also discussed school district owned land. Scott J is the President for CACD for the next 2 years. Soil health was discussed; the previous salinity program was replaced with a soil health program.

Shawn went to the Collaborative for Healthy Soils meeting, they don’t want any policies that force people into doing something, they want voluntary incentive based programs. There are 4 working groups; science and practice; incentives and polices; stakeholder engagement; and another unknown group. CSU, NRCS and Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance. Market-based and financing options, inventory of existing soil health practices, assist in implanting those practices, and solutions to help people get money for projects they’re doing. Shawn joined the science and practice working group. They’re looking for a demonstration project and the Brush Creek Ranch and Open Space would be a good contender for a demo project and there would be funds available to assist Eagle County with improving the soil health at Brush Creek Ranch. Rachel from CSCB explained to everyone what Conservation Districts are and what they do.

Stephen asked if the Board would be interested if Derek with NRCS could attend one of our meetings to present soil health tests results within our District. Everyone seemed interested, a date will be figured out.

Mill Levy- are we interested in pursuing? Yes, May of 2022 seems to be the best time to conduct the election since the Board has a lot of work to do, mainly get the word out of who the ECCD is and what we do, formulate a game plan and do a lot of legwork to better our chances of winning the levy. Create a presentation to get support from organizations that can help advocate for the Mill Levy like; Walking Mountains Science Center, Eagle County Land Trust, Eagle River Watershed Council, etc., also create a budget, how much is everything going to cost and earmark that money- look into getting a grant since all of this will cost a lot of money. Next step is to create a budget for getting the Mill Levy, then create a budget for what the District would do with the Milly Levy money.

Feb 22nd there will be a local food group meeting in Eagle County to connect food producers to distributors.

**NRCS Report:** Only 3 projects are getting TCP funds because things are changing because of the new Farm Bill, the NRCS is cutting back on TCP funding however Stephen will be given more say in funding for projects within his jurisdiction. EQIP will also have some changes because of the new Farm Bill. 114% snowpack for the season but we’re still in D0-D1 drought because soil moisture levels are low. NRCS might shut down if the Federal budget isn’t signed off on by the end of the month. Garfield County Ag Expo will be held on Feb 1st.

**CSU Ext Update:** Financial workshop is happening tomorrow, 9 people are attending from Eagle County.

**Mail Review:** An overdue balance notice from the Colorado Department of Revenue, will forward invoice to Wendy so she can send out the payment.

**Next Meeting Date: 1/8/20**

**Adjourn: 8:06pm**

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