EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Regular Board Meeting Agenda December 12, 2018

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

**Meeting called to order at 5:23pm**

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

**Supervisors Absent: Scott J and Clayton**

**Guests: Stephen J, Ken M, Lanny Ellis**

**Approval of Minutes motion made by Shawn seconded by Wendy with the correction of a small spelling change.**

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held November 14, 2018

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | - |  - |
| Scott Schlosser | 48 | 130 |
| Wendy Sacks | 4 | 20 |
| Clayton Gerard | - | - |
| Shawn Bruckman | 20 | 364 |
| Jay Taylor | 3 |  20 |
|  |  |  |

***Treasurer’s Report:***

Alpine Checking Account balance: $13,571.00

Money Market Account balance: $30,620.69

***Old Business***

CoAgMet Station Update- Jay talked about his meeting with Diane, she had a few questions about maintenance and he showed her around. She liked that there is a fence around the station. Scott S said she was impressed with the station and thinks the County’s approval of the station will just be a formality. The only limitation is there isn’t cell service in parts of the ranch but there are locations that will get cell service. Ken asked why the County wouldn’t approve the station and it’s more about them approving the funds request from ECCD than the approval of putting the station at Brush Creek Valley Ranch & Open Space.

Deep Creek update- Scott S went to the last meeting with Chris Estes, the Forest Service and BLM were there. They brought up the concerns voiced by Clayton from the last meeting like fencing the creek out from the cows and management limiting grazing. There are 3 types of designations; Wild, Scenic and Recreational. The discussion was related to the grazing permit and management outside of the area. Talks of creating water holdings up top to limit the cows from accessing Deep Creek itself. The grazing permit does take priority but Chris is worried that the new designation might increase the cost of the permit so it might be out of reach for him and he’s worried that cows will create erosion and the right to have a permit there might be revoked to limit the erosion. Scott and Chris asked to see a draft of the Deep Creek Scenic management plan before the District takes a stand for supporting this designation or not.

***New Business***

Hear from the local food group- New Roots co., they are a nonprofit that was founded last summer. Mission is to support healthy, sustainable food access in Eagle County, education outreach and partnerships is how they make their mission a possibility. Feb 2 they will have a food summit that will be a great opportunity for educating the community on what they do. They are all volunteers and have a radio show every Thursday at 9am on Radio Free Minturn. Bringing farmers markets online and create more access to food banks are goals of New Roots. There is a Food shed map on Walking Mountains website, which shows local suppliers of food. Shawn asked Lanny why the ECCD should attend the summit and/or what the board can do for New Roots? Any landowner that’s interested in food production would be interested in attending the summit since it’s an opportunity to access a growing market, he’s interested in sharing our connections and resources since we share common goals. One of their main goals is to change children’s habits, create a cultural shift on the way people eat and what they do with their waste. How do you bring the market to food producers? Gleaning projects and hosting meetings with various producers, consumers and food banks-facilitate those connections. Barriers to farming in our area, short growing season and landowners that have no time and want to be farmers with no land, high cost of land and labor. No time or knowledge to diversify practices, you need a lot of labor or equipment. You need to get the landowners together with the want to be farmers and create a formal agreement that benefits both parties. There was a discussion on examples of folks that have done similar projects. An agreement should include how to grow the food and where to sell it. Improving Farm Drops is an area of focus. Once there is a formal plan developed the Board would get involved and get our constituents involved.

Annual Meeting- Scott S mentioned he wants Kerry Donovan to be the speaker or maybe the new CSU ext officer Denise, Shawn mentioned maybe Francine from NRCS to talk about soil, maybe someone to talk about the Farm Bill? The Board wants the meeting to be on Wed Feb 27 at Brush Creek Pavilion, Shawn wants to volunteer making the event a zero waste event, Shawn mentioned she knows a caterer so she’ll get a quote from them and the DM will get a quote from Gourmet Cowboy and decide from there. Wendy is going to talk to Alan Echtler about performing music during the event again. Silent auction- everyone from the board should bring at least one item.

Discuss Kirk’s Board Member position- Kirk needs to formally resign through an email that will be sent to the Board. Ken M is happy to fill the position; DM will send the SD-7 oath of office form to Ken for him to sign.

Soil health policy and other updates from Shawn- CACD annual meeting was great, Shawn went to the soil health policy seminar at the annual event. Basically there are a lot of groups trying to initiate new practices but there needs to be a more concerted effort and best practices shared amongst folks who are working to improve soil quality. The idea is to get folks using the same practices, that way progress can be recorded. Roaring Fork Farmers is working on something similar, supporting more funding from the state to go to Conservation Districts for soil health. National Young Farmers Coalition, Colorado Compost Council and CACD are all lobbying for better soil health and funding. CU and CSU are working on measuring and communicating how certain practices work so folks can use practices that’ll work the best on their land. A brief discussion of creating a mill levy was had.

**Other Business:**

**NRCS Report:** Water levels are good, 25-30% above average for this time of the year. The Farm Bill passed in the Senate needs to still pass in the House, more money will be coming to EQIP. NRCS doesn’t have a budget so they might close on the 21st. Around 43 applications for the Eagle/Pitkin area and 10/12 for the Kremling area and 8 in Eagle County for EQIP funds have been submitted. January 18th is the last day to apply for EQIP funds. From the Lake Christine Fire, they did receive EWP funds, near $1,ooo,ooo for projects to protect lives and homes, these projects need to be completed within a certain time frame since the funds were awarded for emergency purposes. State lands, BLM and National Forest land were primarily affected by the Lake Christine Fire, not too much private land.

**Mail Review: State Internet Portal Team sent a Christmas Card, Colorado Outdoors magazine, Forestry notes from NACD, Notice from Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety about a Tower Pit claim.**

**Next Meeting Date: 1/9/19**

**Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm**

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