EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes December 9, 2020

5:00pm Online Zoom Meeting

**Meeting called to order at 5:02pm**

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

**Supervisors Absent:**

**Guests: Steve Smith, Stephen J**

**Approval of Minutes motion to approve made by Scott S and 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 11, 2020

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 80 | 0 |
| Scott Schlosser | 10 | 0 |
| Wendy Sacks | 4 | 0 |
| Clayton Gerard | 2 | 0 |
| Shawn Bruckman |  |  |
| Jay Taylor | 4 | 0 |
| Ken Marchetti | 0 | 0 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $20,693.98

Money Market Account balance: $30,654.41

**Topics to Discuss:**

Deep Creek Legislation update from Steve Smith from American Rivers- Steve pointed out the changes that they made after concerns were brought up at the ECCD September monthly meeting. “The revisions include two key features:

1) Declarations about grazing opportunities (and other existing uses) are captured in a recitation of FINDINGS (rather than “purposes”, as included in earlier versions); and

2) Grazing opportunities are depicted in terms more comparable to those used to highlight natural features of the creek and other features in the vicinity.”

Scott S asked Steve S if they have heard anything from people who hold grazing permits in and/or near Deep Creek, Steve mentioned that they have not heard from them yet with this new draft but plan on seeking their input. The board members all agreed that this version looks fine but want approval from the stakeholders that will be affected before the ECCD board will formally approve of this legislation. Scott J, Shawn and Clayton will reach out the stakeholders before the next Deep Creek meeting on January 12th to get their input on the new draft in case they can’t attend the meeting.

*Discuss and vote on the applications we received for the weed cost share-* Doug wanted to know the amount of money that ECCD would contribute for 2021’s weed cost share program, they contributed $2,500 last year and Clayton made a motion to contribute the same amount seconded by Shawn all board members approved. Ken made a motion to approve all 8 applications that were sent to Doug as long as the County is ok with all of the applications.

*Soil Health update-* There has been a focus on data and privacy meetings since privacy is a big concern for private landowners.

*CACD annual meeting update-*Soil Health Committee biggest concerns were who would be in charge of implementing the policy and there isn’t language available so it’s hard to support a bill that doesn’t have drafted language yet. CACD policy book already has a policy for soil health, but CACD wants the Conservation Districts and NRCS to have control which some people seemed to be confused on how many bills there are and who would be in charge of implementing said policy. So that item was not approved.

There was a petition to allow more chemicals to be used for ground squirrel mitigation that passed.

The updates for the CACD book were approved, basically improved the grammar as no big changes were made.

Yearly dues are still set at $1,200.

Budget- Wendy sent the budget through email for review, if the board approves Scott J needs to sign it and Courtney needs to place an ad in a print with the Vail Daily since it has to be published because it’s over $50,000 per state requirements. This brought up the discussion of what the district plans on doing with the funding we’re receiving, so we’re going to do an annual plan for 2021 that will get started on next month.

Shawn is in talks with Pawnee Butte Seeds, she’s going to put a blend together that would work in our district and get pricing to bring to the board members. Scott J recommended doing a couple different varieties, like a lawn mix, dry and irrigated mix. Wendy mentioned that we should shop around with a couple other seed mix companies to get the best pricing. Stephen mentioned a few other companies other than PBS that Shawn is going to reach out to. There was a discussion on how to package the seed and how to help folks plant the seed.

Clayton mentioned that Jessica from the Eagle County Land Trust hired Oliver Scully to work on the Eagle River Water Conservation Plan to focus on agriculture. Shawn attended the last Land Trust meeting and said they talked about food production, preservation of agricultural practices, soil health and increasing support for ag. She mentioned that the Trust should donate land for regenerative agriculture. Ken mentioned that Jessica is supposed to send out a recording from the stakeholder meetings and a survey.

Sustainable Film Series- first film was last night and it was about wild fire and forest management. Shawn just wanted to mention that the monthly series is back on if anyone is interested in attending a film showing.

**NRCS Report:** EQIP dates for 2021 January 8th application deadline so funding can be completed sooner than usual. All of Eagle County is in a D3 drought and most of the county is in a D4 drought which is the most severe level of drought. Colorado headwaters is only at 65% of normal levels. Looking at poor production for next year if things don’t drastically change. There is a possibility that a government shutdown could happen in the next few weeks. Finishing up work on the Pine Gulch fire and getting that information to the counties, starting work on the Troublesome fire which is difficult because there is snow on the ground.

**CSU Ext Update: N/A**

**Mail Review: N/A**

**Next Meeting Date: 1/13/21**

**Adjourn: 6:34pm**

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