EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes April 14th, 2021

5:00pm Online Zoom Meeting

**Meeting called to order at 5:03pm**

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

**Supervisors Absent:**

**Guests: Laura Bohannon, Stephen J, Heather Sackett, Stephanie Pitt, and Jessica Pettee**

**Approval of Minutes: motion to approve minutes by Shawn with the addition of adding Jay to the list of present supervisors seconded by Ken.**

**There were introductions of everyone, and Scott J explained what the ECCD does in depth for the attendees.**

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held March 10, 2021

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 65 | 0 |
| Scott Schlosser | 20 | 45 |
| Wendy Sacks | 8 | 0 |
| Clayton Gerard | 5 | 0 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 15 | 0 |
| Jay Taylor | 12 | 0 |
| Ken Marchetti | 10 | 0 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $32,025.08

Money Market Account balance: $30,655.43

Wendy gave an update on outstanding invoices- Courtney will work getting Wendy the amounts needed for the outstanding tree sale orders.

**Topics to Discuss:**

Ken mentioned how should the District transition from the current DM Courtney to Laura- particularly from a 15 hour/month to a 15-20/week position. Ken asked if the board should schedule a work session to discuss with Laura. They all agreed to figure a date out within the next two weeks.

Update from Stephanie on the Vence Grant- Stephanie sent the board members the latest copy of the grant that she’s been working on. The primary focus of the grant is wildlife habitat. She mentioned that having a project manager, potentially Laura will be needed as well as, technicians for the landscape and vegetation analysis, landowner interviews, workshops in the beginning of the process to help people use the app and have a better understanding of what to expect will all be needed. This is a 50/50 grant that can be cash and/or in-kind. Needs a primary sponsor that will take on this grant and submit it. Stephen J talked about the different commitment levels the ECCD could take with this grant and will leave it to the board and Laura to decide how to proceed next. There is no firm deadline for the grant yet, but Stephanie thinks late May or June will be the date and a decision will hopefully be made by the fall. Scott S discussed that there is an appetite for this kind of project in our community and it could be really good for the district. Gypsum to Wolcott is already going to a pilot project from the BLM so Stephanie mentioned maybe the Roaring Fork Valley, McCoy/Bond, Eagle would be good areas to add to the BLM pilot project. Clayton made a motion to start a subcommittee for the Vence pilot program, Shawn seconded all board members approved. An email will circulate to decide who will be on the committee and when they’ll meet.

Annual Event- pick a date and location. The board suggested having the event at Colorado River Ranch or at the Brush Creek Ranch and Open Space. Scott J will see what’s possible and email the board some dates for the event. No speakers just a more informal update on what the ECCD has been up to. They want the event to be catered by the school district again, Wendy is going to oversee this. Friday the 28th is the date the board decided on.

Trees being delivered on 5/12- Town of Vail, George Henry, Deb Bartz and Greg Tonkovich are the people that ordered trees.

Update on Eagle County talks about funds and office space. The next meeting is on May 10th. Shawn discussed what the county is looking for as far as the scope of work the DM position and what their funding is going towards. Shawn mentioned that everyone should look over the shared DM job description again before the next meeting to make sure there isn’t anything else that needs to be added.

Annual plan of work- tabled for the subcommittee to discuss.

From the asset inventory project- Scott J said he knows of three different people that did projects from the information they received from inventory and Clayton said he knows of three people too. Wendy talked about the pipeline project that her neighborhood did, how it saved 75% of their water from being wasted which was identified in the inventory. Heather Sacket is a reporter with the Aspen Times and she is aware of similar inventory projects in the Yampa River and the Middle Colorado River and she wanted to know if the inventory project was helpful to anyone.

Prop 16- Scott J said it sounds like it will be dropped, Gov Polis is against this initiative and it likely will not make it on a ballot.

The Soil Health policy (passed the house, headed to senate) CACD still doesn’t support the Soil Health Policy because they want the conservation districts to be more involved. There was a discussion on why this is the CACD’s view with examples.

CACD- Wants to create a Climate Resiliency Office

Ag Workers Bill- CACD is having conversations with the House representatives, no real update though.

April 20th at 11am is the next Deep Creek meeting.

CAC Soil health carbon sequestration team and the EC Open Space and ECCD will be invited. Steamboat Springs is working on carbon sequestration projects so Shawn is going to go to some meetings and see how it’s going with their projects and if there’s anything ECCD can learn and use.

**NRCS Report:** Stephen shared a graph of peak runoff of the Eagle River which is in the red level meaning it’s in the 20% lowest average of historic peak runoff for the Eagle River. He also showed an image of the drought monitor and all of Eagle County is in at least a D2 drought. He also demonstrated how to access varies charts from the NRCS website. They just hired a Soil Conservationist with a May 10th start date. Moving through funding cycle now, only 8-10 EQIP projects are going to be funded.

**CSU Ext Update: N/A**

**Mail Review: Colorado Outdoors Magazine**

**Next Meeting Date: 5/12/21**

**Adjourn: 7:37pm**

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