EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2020

5:00 pm on Zoom

**Meeting called to order at 5:05pm**

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

**Supervisors Absent: Scott J**

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

**Approval of Minutes: approved by Ken seconded Shawn all present members that were at last month’s meeting approved.**

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held April 7, 2020

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | - | - |
| Scott Schlosser | 5 | 20 |
| Wendy Sacks | 2 | 0 |
| Clayton Gerard | 1 | 0 |
| Shawn Bruckman | 12 | 0 |
| Jay Taylor | 4 | 0 |
| Ken Marchetti | 3 |  0 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $21,020.36

Money Market Account balance: $30,652.62

**Topics to Discuss:**

*Weed Cost Share with Eagle County-* Doug gave a brief update on the changes the County made and all board members were good with the changes.

*Worker comp exemption-*Ken asked what it would cost to get the board members covered under workers comp. Wendy will check with Pinnacle to see what it would cost, if it’s minimal it might be worth checking into it. Ken made a motion to submit the exemption seconded by Wendy and all board members approved the exemption as long as the cost of insurance isn’t too expensive.

*MOU between NRCS, CWCB and ECCD-* describes the working relationship between all of the organizations. It talks about the local work group, gives us protection under CORA, etc. Ken noticed it under the Civil Rights document and didn’t remember seeing it. Follow up with Stephen and Alyssa to get a copy of our District’s MOU.

*Pit Test Demonstration-*Denyse was talking about a weed management and small acreage workshop in August. What do we think folks are interested in- it’s hard to show fast changes in soil so focus on soil structure and compare two different sites with different profiles. There was a discussion on the options of different small acreage workshops and who we could get to help with the workshop and where to do it. Maybe at the new Brush Creek Open Space since it hasn’t been irrigated in years and another site that is irrigated to show the differences between the soils. Hay Meadow would be a good site to show the irrigated land and it already has a pit there. August 22nd is when the tentatively planned date is, Doug and Denyse are already planning this workshop. Weeds will also be discussed at this workshop, to hopefully get more folks to attend.

*Source Water Protection Sub-Committee Meeting-*Farm Bill money available to protect source water, the committee helps identify resource concerns. NRCS is required to spend a certain amount of money on source water projects, similar to the working group meetings find out watersheds that could use the funding. Rate and use a point system for the different resources and practices, three areas of source water depletion concern are; ground, surface and irrigation water, soil quality limitations and source water depletion are more specific areas of focus. Next meeting is on June 4th. Ranking weight system on vulnerability, resource priority, program priority and efficiency, there are 16 different categories. For source water in our District Gypsum Creek and Brush Creek we would need to work with the Forest Service since the water come from forests.

*Eagle County Working Group-* Climate Action Collaborative started this working group. They want to set another goal that focuses on water conservation. Their focus is on reducing outside water use by 10% by 2030, ERWSD has a water efficiency plan so does the Town of Eagle. The main outdoor water consumers they’re looking at are landscapers and golf courses. Dylan Roberts presented at this meeting about the House Bill 1157 that pertains to positive changes to the Use it or Lose it regulations*.*

They’re working on creating a county wide baseline on water inventory and mapping water use and rights.

*Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils* update- Science and practice subcommittee is working on how to create a standard soil health assessment for the State of Colorado since there currently isn’t one. Need to collect data from testing and demonstration projects to create a baseline of soil health throughout Colorado. Shawn is emphasizing that people’s information needs to be anonymous so more folks will partake in the program. The main end goal is to provide payment for ecosystem services.

Colorado River Colorado River District is trying to increase their Mill Levy from a ¼ to a 1/2. This is because they were getting funding from Oil and Gas Industries which have tanked recently so they need to recoup their funding.

**NRCS Report:** In the middle of getting funding finished for the year. Snowpack is melting fast, the Colorado Basin is already halfway done melting. We’re at 75% of average snow pack. Eagle County is in a D-0 drought within the last week or so, about half of the state is in a drought too.

**CSU Ext Update:** Grow and Give Project, register your garden and any donate extra produce to a local food bank. She’s going to start advertising and contacting community gardens to participate and the District will advertise on our Facebook.

**Mail Review:** No Mail

**Next Meeting Date: 6/10/20**

**Adjourn**: Meeting called at 6:55pm

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