EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 ~ 970.343.0333

Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 8, 2019

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

**Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Scott J**

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

**Supervisors Absent: Scott S & Shawn**

**Guests: Ken N, Kirsten L, Alyssa C, Lizzie S, Melinda and Steve Hammer, Chris T, & Stephen J**

**Approval of Minutes** there needed to be a change to who Kirsten spoke to, not Ken Neubecker but John Martin. Motion to approve the minutes with those changes by Jay seconded by Ken.

**Roll Call Reports:** Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held April 10, 2019

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD MEMBER** | **HOURS** | **MILES** |
| Scott Jones | 30 | 100 |
| Scott Schlosser | - | - |
| Wendy Sacks | 6 | 20 |
| Clayton Gerard |  |  |
| Shawn Bruckman | - | - |
| Jay Taylor | 6 | 14 |
| Ken Marchetti | 12 | 18 |

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Alpine Checking Account balance: $9,796.96

Money Market Account balance: $30,631.64

**Topics to Discuss:**

*Deep Creek –* Talks of changing designation to Recreation instead of Wild because there will be more freedom. Ken N and Lizzie mentioned that American Rivers and the ERWC won’t support the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019” since Congresswoman Diana DeGette has included Deep Creek in this proposal. The desire to designate Deep Creek as a Wild and Scenic River dates back 25 years, which was spearheaded by the Sierra Club. Ken mentioned there is limestone at Deep Creek so there is a slight possibility that mining will occur if there is no designation, there are mining claims by a Belgium company but with the steel tariffs it’s not likely because the economics aren’t there. Need to figure out what the designation and protection is on the caves. Kirsten mentioned that the reason this designation is going on is that there wasn’t any protest, but she said that’s because the folks being affected weren’t notified. Ken said that regardless of protests, they would have still proceeded with this designation. Kirsten asked why does American Rivers support Wild and Scenic Designations, Lizzie mentioned the reason for the designation is that it is a way to protect the current and projected uses of the water. Ken said American Rivers is trying to get a State Instream Flow Water Right so there isn’t a Federal Water Right which could affect current and future water right holders, especially if they want to develop. Kirsten wants protection of future water right development, Ken said it’s on the table but they need to figure out how much instream flow is needed for a healthy riparian area and see what’s left over for future development and growth. Once Wild and Scenic designation occurs then the local community will work with the Federal government and can decide if the designation is advertised or not, which could prevent Deep Creek from being Loved to Death. The Forest Service and BLM can change the management plan at any time so this designation could help protect the interests of the current water right and grazing permit holders, any changes would have to be through Congress instead of an administrative change which is what the current process is. American Rivers and the ERWC are only facilitators in the ERCWP. The main issue of the Wild and Scenic designation is the boundaries. Since the BLM is the entity pushing for expanding the designation boundaries, how does the ECCD make their concerns heard by the BLM? Go to the next drafting meeting which hasn’t been scheduled yet, it will likely be difficult to get ag reps at the meeting since everyone is busy until November so creating a new map and sending it through email for input might be the best option. Clayton asked for contact info of other ranchers that have been a part of Wild and Scenic River designations in agriculture areas in the past, Ken N will give him some contacts from Oregon.

*New supervisor training*- was conducted by Alyssa. She went over the roles and responsibilities of board supervisors. Alyssa will send a follow up email containing links to the resources she went over in the presentation.

*Eagle River Community Water* Plan update from today’s meeting- since no one was present from the Board, Lizzie gave a brief rundown. Subcommittee engagement, they were discussing ways to get more survey results. Western Colorado Sportsmen Expo, they had a booth where they received over 400 responses which haven’t been posted yet, since they want to wait until they get results from the entire county not just down valley. They’re also focused on how to get more Spanish speaking folks involved. The changes the District requested to the posters were updated and they will be sending out the updated versions of the poster for final revisions before the next event. They will be collecting responses from stakeholders through the end of the year.

*CoAgMet Station 2*- updates submitted, waiting for Diane to get back from vacation (end of May)

*June monthly meeting*- held in Burns, Phil should do his presentation in July since it pertains to Eagle River and that way we can focus on Local Workgroup meeting.

**NRCS Report: Healthy Lands Open House event, which talks about noxious weeds in Garfield County. Silt will be having an annual picnic as well. Water levels are great, we’re above the precip gages, more water has already fallen this year than 2018 so things are looking good. Temps have been mild so the melt-offs have been good. TCP announcements have been delayed for another week or so. EQIP is still being finalized; there are a few projects in Eagle County that they’re trying to get funding for.**

**CSU Ext Update: N/A, Denyse was absent from this meeting**

**Mail Review: N/A**

**Next Meeting Date: 6/12/19 Adjourn: motion made by Ken at 7:40 seconded by Wendy**

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