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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES October 8, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Darrell Smith, and Chester Zwirn
Supervisors Absent: Sonya Shaw
Ex officio Members: Jake Prather (NRCS)
Staff Present: Tanya Fell, Shirley Deason, and Rafael Trejo

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 6:10 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference.

Updates were made by each board member to the mileage calendar.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was made on a motion by Supervisor Richards. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the September 10, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Smith moved to accept the financial report and pay the October bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously. The current bills paid are:

- September payroll
- Brian Lengel (Star+)

Cash flow needs were discussed by the board. The options considered were cashing in Certificate of Deposit #8568 held at Wray State Bank which matured on October 3, 2024, before the 10-day grace period expired or transferring money from the NOW account held at Wray State Bank. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to transfer money if needed from the NOW account held at Wray State Bank to the operating account held at First Pioneer National Bank. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

The preliminary budget for 2025 was discussed along with the plan of work for the upcoming year.

OLD BUSINESS:

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2024: to be used for pipeline, new tanks, storage tanks, livestock tank monitoring. Applicants are Alva Deterding, Jamie Deterding, Randall Boden, and the Marjorie Anderson Trust. Leroy Deterding and Alyse Wenstrom have decided not to participate. The Randall Boden and Jamie Deterding projects have been completed. The

Marjorie Anderson Trust is completed and awaiting NRCS inspection and documentation of cancelled checks. Alva Deterding is working on installing a 30-foot stock tank. Due to the low number of participants, a motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to withdraw the additional \$10,000 of district funds to be added that was previously approved in the February 20, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2025: The matching grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the benefit of the Yuma Conservation District and the Yuma County Conservation District has been approved. The YCCD will administer grant funding for both conservation districts.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: Cooperator Kyle Richards has indicated to District Manager Fell that he no longer wishes to participate in the project. District Manager Fell and Travis Taylor, CSU extension agent, are working to determine if the project should move beyond the demonstration grant phase and the next steps to be taken. Travis Taylor, CSU extension agent, is hoping to meet with Duane Stegner, Bonny Reservoir property manager with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, to review accomplishments made during the year and what steps need to be taken moving forward.
- NFWF Grant: \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County is approved. Spraying for cheatgrass began during the latter part of September. Producer Don Brown was discussed by the board as he had not returned a signed contract to the Yuma County Conservation District office and hired his own applicator to spray cheatgrass. A motion was made by Supervisor Smith to not allow Don Brown's participation in the program as he did not provide the signed contract prior to spraying. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.
- Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant: The conservation district has been informed that a grant of \$20,000 has been approved. Spraying for cheatgrass control began at the latter part of September in conjunction with the NFWF grant.
- RCPP – Rejuvra: \$ 2,500,000 Grant application was submitted on by July 2nd. The focus of the grant has been changed to carbon sequestration. No additional information is available.
- Colorado Soil Health Program – Dustin Wise and Brian Lengel have been approved by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) for 2024 reimbursement. Producers Nathan Amrine, John Kettelson, Daniel/Beth Ray, and Aaron Waitman have submitted reimbursement forms and are awaiting approval from the CDA for reimbursement. The district has the opportunity to enroll 3 more producers. Possible candidates for enrollment are Sandhill Bloomers Flower Farm, Juston Strand, Darrell Smith, and Ryan Noble.

Curt Fix attended the August 2024 board meeting regarding the water shortage in the area south of Vernon. The board was following up on possible solutions to the problem. Jake Prather with NRCS stated that Mr. Fix has to show control of the land or that all people owning the land would need to apply before NRCS EQIP funding could be considered. As of the date of the meeting, Curt Fix had not come back in.

District Manager Fell, a representative from the City of Wray, and NRCS engineers conducted tours of all six dam sites in August. We are still waiting for the report from NRCS detailing their findings. Formal emails should be sent to Jeff Long and Bailey Rapp with NRCS requesting a copy of the report.

CACD award nominations are due by October 15, 2024. District Manager Fell and Office Assistant Deason are working on the nomination submissions for Chester Zwirn to the CACD Hall of Fame and Margaret Lenz as the CACD Supervisor of the Year.

Conservation district highway signs will be discussed with adjoining conservation districts at the range judging contest to be held in Yuma.

The 2008 Ford Pickup located at the Wray office which is owned by NRCS has not gone up for auction yet. Supervisor Smith is monitoring the auction site to place a bid on the vehicle as authorized in the September 2024 board meeting.

The CACD annual meeting will be held December 2-4, 2024, at Colorado Springs. Supervisors Lenz, Smith and Zwirn plan to attend along with staff. Meals, rooms, and registration will be paid by the conservation district.

The theme of the CACD Poster Contest is "*May the Forest Be With You Always*". Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 8th. District Manager Fell and District Technician Trejo have worked on a PowerPoint presentation to present to students. Also, supplies to build a forest ecosystem terrarium have been purchased as a project for each classroom with classroom presentations scheduled for the following week.

The state range judging contest is being held on October 9, 2024, at the Yuma Fairgrounds. Several board supervisors and conservation staff are planning to attend to help with the event.

Jeff Wingfield has agreed to be an ex officio for the conservation district.

NEW BUSINESS:

AmeriCorps: The conservation district has received financial information concerning the grant and will be attending a teleconference to gather more information.

Friends of NACD Grant: The program will award top-ranking applicants up to \$2,500 each to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations. Districts must submit a proposal and budget by Nov. 30, 2024. The conservation district may consider applying for a grant to establish a farmer's market.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to dispense with the executive session. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously, with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The next regular YCCD meeting has been scheduled for November 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer



Date