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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES July 9, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Sonya Shaw, Darrell Smith, and Chester Zwirn
Supervisors Absent: none
Ex officio Members: Jake Prather (NRCS)
Staff Present: Shirley Deason and Tanya Fell

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 5:57 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 Shaw and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Zwirn moved to approve the June 11, 2024, and June 20, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> June payroll | <input type="radio"/> Cade Richards |
| <input type="radio"/> Basically Business | <input type="radio"/> Yuma Pioneer |
| <input type="radio"/> WISH | <input type="radio"/> Randall Boden/Carol Zimbelman |

OLD BUSINESS:

The YCCD Board reviewed the applications that were submitted by Rafael Trejo and Vanessa Lenz-Smith for the position of District Conservation Technician. The board was informed that Vanessa Lenz-Smith had accepted a job elsewhere and was withdrawing her application. An interview was then held with Rafael Trejo. After discussion, Supervisor Shaw made a motion to offer the District Conservation Technician position to Rafael Trejo at a starting salary of \$ 19.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

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: Alyse Wenstrom, Alva Deterding, Leroy Deterding (pending state land lease is eligible), Jamie Deterding, Randall Boden, and the Marjorie Anderson Trust. The Boden project has been completed.

- **50/50 Matching Grant 2025:** After discussion, the board decided to apply for the matching grant using the same criteria as the previous year. Also, District Manager Fell is to check with the Yuma Conservation District to see if their conservation district is applying for a matching grant. If the Yuma Conservation District is not applying for a matching grant and would be willing to give a letter to that effect, the Yuma County Conservation District will apply for a matching grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for both districts, pending CSCB approval of the joint district application administered by YCCD.
- **Bonny Demonstration Grant:** Travis Taylor with CSU extension and District Manager Fell had a conference call on virtual fencing. Currently, collars are sold out and the virtual fencing company is not willing to commit any funds to the Bonny project.
- **NFWF Grant:** \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County is approved. Kelsea Holloway with U.S. Fish and Wildlife met with producers showing an interest in spraying for cheat grass control on June 24th and July 2nd to map potential areas to be sprayed this fall. A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to open a new checking account with First Pioneer National Bank in order to keep RESTORE grant funds in a separate account. All Supervisors are authorized to sign on the account. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. Due to receiving the grant, the conservation district will also need to amend the budget.
- **Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant:** The district applied for a \$75,000 grant in February 2024. The conservation district has not received any information on the status of the 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.
- **Colorado Soil Health Program:** Installation of soil moisture sensors was completed on June 26th – June 28th. Producer Stults signed the letter acknowledging his request to withdraw from the program and that no funds would be forthcoming to him due to his withdrawal from the program.

Farming Evolutions and summer field days were discussed by the board. The Haxtun Conservation District remitted \$2,000 to the Yuma County Conservation District for their share of the profits from the 2024 Farming Evolutions conference. Possible field days were discussed.

Office Assistant Deason called District Manager Devony Bethel on July 8, 2024, to inquire whether the Washington County Conservation District signed the Cell Phone Reimbursement Agreement. District Manager Devony Bethel returned the call stating the Washington County Conservation District approved the Cell Phone Reimbursement Agreement and that a copy of the agreement would be emailed with a hard copy to follow in the mail.

The Garden in a Box project was tabled until a future meeting.

Conservation District signs were briefly discussed. The Haxtun Conservation District wants to participate in the project with our conservation district.

Camp Rocky is an educational, week-long residential camp for 14 – 17-year-olds who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources, agriculture or environmental science. At least two youth from our area are attending the camp which is being held July 7th-12th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jake Prather with NRCS gave a brief report on staffing updates for NRCS.

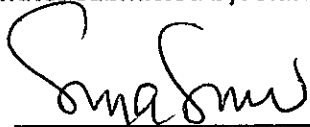
Supervisor Shaw volunteered to be the reporting Supervisor for District Manager Fell.

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

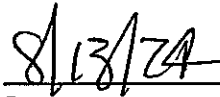
A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously, with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

The next regular YCCD meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer



Date