



247 N CLAY STREET
WRAY, CO 80758
970-332-3108 EXT. 101
www.ycconservation.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 23, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, and Sonya Shaw.
Supervisors Absent: Jeff Wingfield, and Chester Zwirn
Ex officio Members: Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU and Jake Prather, NRCS
Guest Present: Alyse Wenstrom, Natural Resource Specialist for NRCS
Staff Present: Shirley Deason, Bob Rogers, and Tanya Fell

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 9:55 a.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference Room.

Jake Prather introduced Supervisors to Alyse Wenstrom, Natural Resource Specialist, who is a new employee at the Wray NRCS office.

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

Supervisor Shaw moved to approve the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the December 12, 2023, budget hearing minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Shaw moved to accept the financial report and pay January bills, along with mileage for 2023 for District Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. The current bills paid:

- Weiser, Richards, Bauer & Dodsworth – Scholarships
- Lynn Gottmar
- Jim Pagle

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve an online class presented by Morgan Community College on Quickbooks for Office Assistant Deason. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

Amounts owing by Kimberly Saucedo for \$ 210.80 and Luis Saucedo for \$ 229.03 were discussed by Supervisors. The conservation district is to send a certified letter giving them 30 days to pay. A letter is to be sent to Doyle & Becci Riley stating that outstanding check #8169 dated June 20, 2023, issued in the amount of \$280.80 by the YCCD is being applied the outstanding amount owed by them in the amount of \$255.37 for supplies purchased in 2022, with the difference of \$25.43 to be applied in canceling check #8169.

OLD BUSINESS:

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2023: to be used for pipeline, new tanks, storage tanks, livestock tank monitoring. A final report has been submitted. The Hardwick's have completed their project, and we are waiting on receipts to make payment. Dean Wingfield's project will be carried forward to Spring 2024 to complete trenching. The McCaslin's did not end up participating.
- 50/50 Matching Grant 2024: to be used for pipeline, new tanks, storage tanks, livestock tank monitoring. Contracts for 2024 will be modified to state "progress on the project must be started by a date to be determined by the Supervisors to qualify for the grant". A news article about the matching grant has been published in the local newspaper. The deadline to apply is February 16, 2024. The conservation district has a list of eight people interested in applying for the grant with one application already submitted. Applications will be reviewed at the February 2024 meeting.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: District Manager Fell gave a report on the project. She has met with the Bureau of Reclamation. Grazing area III needs to be determined. Travis Taylor spoke about needing water for area III grazing. He also said that the project is accomplishing the objectives of adding wildlife to the area. The supervisors discussed the possibility of having the bird conservancy or a graduate student working on their thesis doing a project on whether the grazing has improved bird habitat.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the work being done for Farming Evolutions. She is working on fliers for the event and has been attending weekly conference calls with the Haxtun Conservation District.

The insurance liability quote received from Mountain West with the underwriter being Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London was reviewed by the Supervisors. Also reviewed was the previous quote obtained from the Colorado Special Districts Liability Pool. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to proceed with purchasing the insurance policy from the Colorado Special Districts Liability Pool. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously. Office Assistant Deason is to continue looking into obtaining a special event policy for the annual tree sales.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to table updates to the By-laws until a later meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The annual meeting of the conservation district was scheduled for February 26, 2024, to be held at the Lions Hall in Kirk. Possible speaker topics suggested were well retirement and on the Bonny Project.

The board recessed at 12:15 p.m. for lunch with the meeting resuming at 12:45 pm.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve a \$160 sponsorship to go towards the Idalia FFA attending the No Till conference in Burlington. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously. Supervisor Richards also made a motion to approve a \$75 scholarship for Yuma County Conservation District producers to attend the No Till conference. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell informed the Supervisors that the Pesticide Applicator Workshop is scheduled for March 13, 2024.

Envirothon, which is a high school quiz bowl competition consisting of a team of four with the subject being natural resources, was discussed. Supervisor Shaw is to send area teachers information about the event. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to sponsor entry fees/lodging if a team competes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the status of the annual Tree/Plant sale held in April. A news article has been published in the local newspaper with information about the sale. A discount for employees who purchase trees/shrubs from the annual YCCD Tree/Plant Sale is to be considered during the employee review.

Living Snow Fences were discussed. In the past, the YCCD has worked with the county and the Colorado Department of Transportation on these projects. District Technician Rogers is to meet with county officials to determine their interest in being a partner in the project. Jake Prather with NRCS stated that crop acres can be put to continuous CRP for landowners wishing to participate in the project.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw that the YCCD offer The Raymond Peters Scholarship. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. An application packet is to be sent to each school and a notice placed on the YCCD Facebook page about the availability of the scholarship.

The Supervisors discussed changes to be made to the Workgroup Survey form for 2024.

Supervisor Jeff Wingfield submitted a letter of resignation. Pending the appointment of a new Supervisor, Jeff will continue to serve.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to enter Executive Session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S, for discussion of personnel matters involving the evaluation of the District Manager, Office Assistant and District Technician, who were previously informed of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously with executive session beginning at 2:10 p.m.

Executive session ended at 3:45 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at that time.

No further motions or actions were taken.

President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for February 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Jeff Wingfield, Secretary/Treasurer



Date