



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES February 20, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Sonya Shaw, Jeff Wingfield, and Chester Zwirn.
Supervisors Absent: none
Ex officio Members: none
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 10:03 a.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference Room.

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

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A Motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Shaw moved to approve the January 23, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

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

- Saucedo – Refund for sales tax
- Wray Market
- Petty Cash for Poster Awards
- Basically Business
- Greg Stultz - CCTA

Amounts owing from 2022 by Kimberly Saucedo for \$ 210.80 and Luis Saucedo for \$ 229.03 were paid.

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. 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". The original deadline to apply was February 16, 2024, but has been extended to February 23, 2024. Applications will be reviewed at the March 2024 meeting. This grant is funded with \$25,000 from state funding. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards for an additional \$10,000 of district funds to be added to the grant. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: District Manager Fell is presenting a slide show to the Republican River Water Conservation District on the topic.

- **Mule Deer Grant:** The district was recently informed about this grant and will be applying for a \$75,000 grant in February 2024.

The new insurance quote from the Colorado Special Districts Pool was reviewed by the Supervisors. Supervisor Richards made a motion to approve the purchase of the Colorado Special Districts Pool, with the exception of the No-Fault Water Intrusion & Sewer Backup coverage and the Excess coverage. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the work being done for Farming Evolutions. District Manager Fell has completed inserts for the Agenda, Sponsor/Vendor list and Speaker Bios to be included in the Farming Evolutions folders. Currently, 145 have registered for the event.

District Manager Fell went to the No-Till CCTA conference in Burlington. While attending the meeting, she spoke with a representative from the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. That organization is interested in sponsoring a speaker/food for an event in this area. The topic of estate planning was suggested. District Manager Fell is to contact a speaker about a date for the event. If a date cannot be arranged before April 1st, the event should be scheduled for late fall, after November 1st.

The annual meeting of the conservation district is scheduled for February 26, 2024, located at the Lions Hall in Kirk. Rod Lenz or Deb Daniel will speak on well retirements in Yuma County. Other presentations will include the Bonny Reservoir Grazing Program, Camp Rocky Youth Camp and Conservation Poster Awards. Parties interested in vacancies on the board will be encouraged to apply. The cost of the rental for the Lions Hall is \$75. Board members should be there between 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. to help set up.

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 Rob Rogers has spoken with Vanessa Santistevan, Environmental Manager with region 4, Colorado Department of Transportation. Ms. Santistevan wants the district to meet with the Colorado State Environmental Group. The “road boss” for Yuma County has been on vacation with no response. County commissioners should also be approached about the Living Snow Fence program.

The Workgroup Survey has been completed and will be provided at the annual meeting.

Supervisors discussed possible candidates for the vacancy due to the resignation of Supervisor Jeff Wingfield. District Manager Fell has reached out to several candidates but has not received a positive response. Several more names were suggested, with District Manager Fell and the Supervisors to reach out to those individuals to determine interest in serving.

The Pesticide Applicator Workshop is scheduled for March 13, 2024. K & S will be catering for the event. Nine participants have registered so far.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the status of the annual Tree/Plant sale held in April. Nearly 10,000 trees have been pre-ordered. Shipping should take place the week of April 7th with producer pickup April 19th – 20th.

The Colorado Soil Health Program (formerly known as STAR+) has six applications submitted as of this date. March 15th is the deadline for applications. The YCCD is working to get 4 more producers to apply.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw 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 Richards and carried unanimously with executive session beginning at 12:15 p.m.

Executive session ended at 1:12 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at that time.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wingfield to approve the raise discussed in executive session for District Manager Fell and that a performance improvement plan be written by District Manager Fell and NRCS RTL Dollie Gonzalez for District Technician Rogers. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve an annual sponsorship of \$250 to the High Plains Community Beekeepers. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to approve the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Highway signs "Entering YCCD" were tabled for a later meeting with District Manager Fell to research the project.

President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for March 05, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Wauneta Fire Hall, pending the Haxtun Conservation District Supervisors are able to hold a joint meeting at that time.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Jeff Wingfield, Secretary/Treasurer

3/5/24

Date