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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES January 10, 2023

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Dustin Wise, Chester Zwirn and Jeff Wingfield

Supervisors Absent: None

Ex official Members: Travis Taylor, Jake Prather, Andy Tapparo

Staff Present: Tanya Fell

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting at 10:03am at the NRCS offices in Wray, CO.

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

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the December 6, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded Supervisor Wingfield and carried unanimously.

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

- District Manager Paycheck
- Board Member Mileage Checks
- College Scholarships – Brown and Richards

District Manager Fell is to contact the new scholarship recipients and remind them that they need to submit a letter and a copy of their current transcripts to receive their next scholarship payment.

OLD BUSINESS:

The YCCD Annual Meeting has been set for March 1st at the Wray Roundhouse beginning at 5:30pm. The program will include a presentation about the Bonny Reservoir Demonstration Grant, A presentation by Chris West with the National Wildlife Foundation, Travis Taylor will do a presentation regarding grazing after 2022 weather, and the poster awards will be distributed. District Manager Fell is to contact the Laird Ladies for meal preparation and menu ideas.

A summary was presented of the final payout for the 2021 Matching Grant funding. The funding for 2021 included \$25,000 from state funding and an additional \$20,000 from YCCD district funding for a total of \$45,000. After the initial payments were made any additional funding is divided between the participants to meet the matching portion. Supervisor Wise moved to pay the final 2021 Matching Grant funding payout. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

The breakout of the final payments are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Total Invoices</i>	<i>\$ Already Paid</i>	<i>Final Payout</i>
Anderson	\$ 11,114.47	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,492.00
Briggs	\$ 6,088.50	\$ 3,044.25	\$ -
Deterding	\$ 17,380.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,492.00
Drager	\$ 8,165.00	\$ 4,082.50	\$ -
Hardwick	\$ 14,471.80	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,492.00
Keiser	\$ 21,187.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,492.00
Kramer	\$ 9,480.66	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 240.00
O'Donnell	\$ 6,346.96	\$ 3,173.48	\$ -
Wingfield	\$ 32,590.99	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,492.00
TOTALS	\$ 126,825.38	\$ 37,300.23	\$ 7,700.00

Supervisor Wise moved to pay the final 2021 Matching Grant funding payout. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

The applications for the 2023 Matching Grant program were reviewed for participation. The YCCD was funded \$25,000 from state funding and they are going to add an additional \$10,000 of district funds for the Matching Grants for 2023. The following actions were taken:

- **John and Greg Brenner** – This applicant would like to install a solar pump system with a bottomless tank using an existing well. Supervisor Wise moved to approve the Brenner application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.
- **Alva Deterding** – This applicant submitted two applications. One project was for installing a solar pump and a tank and the second project was for a new tank at a second site. The board determined that they would only fund one project and the applicant can decide which project to do for the funding. Supervisor Wise moved to approve the Deterding application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.
- **Jory Draeger** – This applicant would like to put 3360 feet of pipeline from an existing well and a new tank. Supervisor Wise moved to approve the Draeger application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.
- **Linda Evans** – This applicant would like to install a solar pump system with a bottomless tank using an existing well. Supervisor Wise moved to approve Evans application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.
- **John Hardwick** - This applicant would like to put pipeline from an existing well and a new tank. Supervisor Wise moved to approve the Hardwick application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.
- **Mike and Tena McCaslin** – This applicant would like to install a solar pump system using an existing well and tank; however, they are not part of the YCCD. Supervisor Wise moved to approve the McCaslin application but only pay the state funding percentage. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.
- **Phillip Wingfield Trusts (Dean Wingfield)** - This applicant would like to put 900 feet of pipeline from an existing well and a new tank. Supervisor Zwirn moved to approve the Wingfield application for both state and YCCD funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wise and carried unanimously. Supervisor Wingfield abstained from voting.

Therefore, the YCCD will fund a total of seven projects with an estimated cost of over \$114,000.

Supervisor Wise explored the options for new tree planting equipment. It was determined that it is difficult to find specific equipment, so he investigated having custom equipment built. Because it is so specialized, the builder would not like to do it. The builder has constructed tree planting equipment in the past and the customers were not happy. Dustin is to talk to Colorado Parks and Wildlife about what type of equipment they have for tree planting and report at the next meeting.

District Manager Fell presented a draft job description for hiring a new employee for review. At this time YCCD is not ready to hire a new employee but once the Star Plus program is implemented and if the Cheat Grass grant is approved additional help will be needed. An additional statement needs to be added to the application that the candidate must pass a government background check for employment.

District Manager Fell is to contact Abbey Grey to verify that the YCCD is on the wait list for hiring a District Technician. This person would also help with new programming.

The applications for the grazing cooperator were reviewed. The applicants were Kyle Richards and Darrell Smith. The YCCD Supervisors had both applicants attend the meeting to discuss the project further and address any concerns they might have regarding the project. Darrell Smith specified that they would only be able to participate if the grazing time was changed to September. That is when it was determined that Kyle Richards would be the cooperator for this project. Supervisor Wise moved to approve Kyle Richards as the grazing cooperator for the Bonny Demonstration Grazing project. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. Cooperator Richards will provide 300 bred cows to graze approximately 300 acres for the project.

1. Per the discussions at the cooperator meeting Kyle requested, if possible, to move the grazing date to February 1st instead of March 1st. After conversations with Ben Meier CPW and Duane Stegner CPW it was determined that we could adjust the grazing dates.
2. YCCD is currently working to obtain a second grant through the Habitat Partnership Program for repairs on a well at Bonny and to also purchase five livestock water storage tanks for water. The HPP meeting is on February 2nd. Duane with CPW has contacted the well company for repairs.
3. YCCD is contacting CDOT to see if the fence along the west side of the Bonny Reservoir next to the highway falls under their area or if it is CPW responsibility to build. It would be a nice backup to have just in case the livestock were to get out of the electric fence. We certainly don't want cattle on the highway!!
4. The next step is for NRCS and CSU Extension to complete a grazing plan and for the Bureau of Reclamation to finalize the NEPA review that has been in process for several months.
5. YCCD would also like to obtain drone footage of the area before, during and after the grazing. YCCD is working with BOR for special clearance to have the drone footage to track the progress of the project.

The 2023 Tree Order Form was reviewed and approved for distribution. District Manager Fell is to contact CPW about using the fish hatchery quonset for tree storage and sales.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bobbi Ketels the Executive Director of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts is stepping down in February. YCCD is to send a thank you letter for her service.

At the CACD Annual meeting it was discussed with the Washington County District Manager to share a cell phone plan to allow them to have a district phone. District Manager Fell had contacted Viaero for a pricing

breakdown to share the costs. Another option is to see if the watersheds would be willing to offer a cell phone plan to share with the conservation districts for a less expensive cost.

District Manager Fell completed a Transparency Resolution Notice that will be posted at the YCCD offices. The board reviewed the resolution notice. Supervisor Wingfield moved to approve the Transparency Resolution Notice and post in the YCCD office. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

The YCCD would like to offer No-Till Conference scholarships for YCCD producers. Producers who attended need to apply and supply a receipt for a \$50 reimbursement. Supervisor Richards moved to approve the No-till Conference Scholarship. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wise and carried unanimously.

The YCCD currently has three District Supervisor positions that are expiring this term. The expired positions are Supervisor Wingfield, Supervisor Wise and Supervisor Zwirn. For the election process an election officer needs to be appointed. Supervisor Wingfield moved to appoint District Manager Fell. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. A Call for Election needs to be published in the local newspaper (Wray Gazette). Supervisor Richards moved to publish the Call for Election. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wise and carried unanimously. Self-nomination forms were distributed to the three supervisors whose terms are expiring.

The local beekeeper organization will be notified that the YCCD has a number of pollinator flowers on their tree sale order this year.

Supervisor Lenz will be attending the National Association of Conservation District meeting in New Orleans at the time for the YCCD February meeting. It was discussed to move the meeting to February 7th so all members can be present. Supervisor Richards moved to approve changing the February meeting to the 7th. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wingfield and carried unanimously.

The pesticide applicator training is set for March 15th in Wray at the Roundhouse. Lunch will be served by the Laird Ladies. District Manager Fell will be attending the District Manager Training and will not be able to assist with the facilitation of this workshop. Supervisors Wise and Richards will be responsible for the training.

District Manger Fell would like to apply to be the Southwest Regional Director for the National Conservation District Employees Association. It was approved for Manger Fell to apply.

A STAR Program Meet and Greet will be held in Greeley on January 25th in conjunction with he Colorado Farm Show. YCCD members are welcome to attend.

An update was given by Jake Prather from NRCS. One of the areas of concern is the Sawfly in wheat. This is a very serious pest issue that can destroy a wheat crop. Supervisor Richards and Manager Fell are to explore speakers to do a spring workshop. In addition, a workshop needs to be facilitated that discusses the issues of transitioning from irrigated to dryland farming.

Area conservation district offices help with Walk In Access for hunters. District Manager Fell is to contact Josh Melby with CPW to see if there is anything YCCD can do to assist.

District Manager Fell is to discuss the potential of hiring a new individual to assist YCCD with Dollie Gonzales and Bailey Rapp with NRCS. In addition, the YCCD is on the waitlist for hiring a District Technician. Both these positions will be important as the workload and number of projects is increasing.

District Manager Fell requested dual monitors for her computer. It was approved for her to purchase.

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

President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.

The next YCCD meeting will be held February 7th at 10:00am at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Tanya Fell, District Manager

Meeting Minutes approved

Dustin Wise, Secretary/Treasurer

Date