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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES October 10, 2023

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Jeff Wingfield, and Chester Zwirn
Supervisors Absent: Sonya Shaw
Ex officio Members: Jake Prather
Staff Present: Shirley Deason, Bob Rogers, and Tanya Fell

Supervisors and staff met at 4:00 p.m. with Wray City Manager, James Depue, at the Yuma County Conservation District office and visited two Wray Dams to check for safety concerns. Supervisors noted that on dam #2 & dam #6, trees need to be removed. On dam # 6 yucca plants needed to be removed. Jeff Long, area NRCS engineer, and Matt Blecha with state water have already made contact about 2024 inspections.

After touring the dams, supervisors and staff returned to the Wray NRCS Conference room where President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting at 5:55 p.m..

Jake Prather with NRCS gave a report stating a natural resource specialist has been hired for the Wray office and that a rangeland specialist position is currently listed as available. The Wray office has recently completed 178 CRP grassland contracts.

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

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded Supervisor Wingfield and carried unanimously.

Thank you notes from the three high school scholarship winners and thank you notes from the kids attending Camp Rocky were passed around for Supervisors to read.

District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Richards 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:

- Tanya Fell – wages
- Shirley Deason – wages
- Bob Rogers – wages
- WISH
- Basically Business
- Quality Farm & Ranch
- NACD

Certificate of Deposit #41094 matures November 10, 2023. Supervisors will determine whether to renew the certificate of deposit at the November 7, 2023, meeting.

The preliminary 2024 budget was reviewed by the Supervisors.

OLD BUSINESS:

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- RCPP – Rejuvra: thru NRCS – requesting \$2,000,000 to be used on the habitat for the greater and lesser prairie chicken. It will provide cheat grass control. Application has been submitted and we are waiting for information as to whether the grant has been approved. The state has reviewed the application, and the application has been forwarded to nationals.
- 50/50-Matching Grant: to be used for pipeline, new tanks, storage tanks, livestock tank monitoring. One grant has been paid out. District Technician Rogers is going to see the Brenners at the end of the week. The Deterding stock tank has been seen by District Technician Rogers. The Hardwick's are waiting on pipe. Dean Wingfield is waiting on a stock tank. A message has been left for the McCaslin's, but we have received no response. We have not heard whether the district has been approved for the 2024 grant as of this date.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: Mowing has been done and barbed wire fence put in place. Grazing began on October 1st. Drone pictures along with pictures of cattle grazing were taken and posted to the district's facebook site. District Manager Fell is to send a press release to the Wray, Burlington, and Yuma newspapers as well as to the CACD and CSCB.
- RESTORE Colorado: Applications are due by the middle of November, and we will apply for a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 plus administrative costs for cheat grass control.
- District Technician: The district technician grant has been approved for 2024.

The Haxtun Conservation District meeting will be held on October 18th @ 7:00 p.m. President Lenz is planning to attend the meeting to discuss Farming Evolutions. Due to the Yuma County Conservation District not having input on the planning and the 2024 speakers, we will not be sharing the cost for 2024 and the district will revisit sharing costs in 2025 provided a MOU is signed.

Office Assistant Deason and District Manager Fell have scheduled a teleconference for October 11, 2023, with Gretchen Rank, Executive Director of the Mancos Conservation District. Mancos Conservation District has purchased liability insurance through Mountain West Insurance Company. Also, the Mancos Conservation District has dam easements and have insight into the liabilities of having dam easements.

There was no discussion on the Bylaws update and Policies.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Supervisors reviewed Proposition HH materials printed from the 2023 Colorado State Ballot Information Booklet for the election to be held on November 7, 2023. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to write a letter to CACD in full opposition to Proposition HH. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wingfield and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell, Office Assistant Deason, and District Technician Rogers are attending the CACD meeting in December. Supervisor Lenz is also planning to attend the meeting.

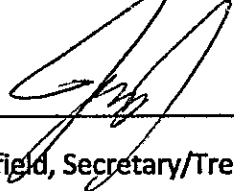
District Manager Fell informed the supervisors that 12,700 trees have been ordered so far with the larger trees to be added at a later date.

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

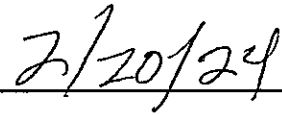
President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting will be held November 7th at 12:00 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray to discuss the certificate of deposit maturing on November 10, 2023, and for judging of the poster contest. A workday meeting has been scheduled for November 28, 2023, to begin at 9:30 a.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Jeff Wingfield, Secretary/Treasurer



Date