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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES September 10, 2024

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

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 6:07 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference.

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

After adding the agenda item "Curt Fix water shortage in Vernon area" approval of the agenda was made on a motion by Supervisor Shaw. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the August 13, 2024, meeting minutes and the August 13, 2024, Supplemental Budget Hearing Minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

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

- August payroll
- Tanya Fell – Mileage
- Rafael Trejo - Mileage
- Premier Accounting
- Dustin Wise (Star+)

Certificate of Deposit #8540 held at Wray State Bank is maturing on September 25, 2024, and Certificate of Deposit #8568 held at Wray State Bank is maturing on October 3, 2024. Renewal rates for the C.D.'s were unavailable at the time of the meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Smith to let the certificates of deposit be automatically renewed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

Dollie Gonzales with NRCS discussed the end of their fiscal year, funding for EQIP and CRP programs, and staffing. Also discussed was the conservation district being a referral agency for "land use" in the district. Former Supervisor Jeff Wingfield is on the Yuma County Planning Commission. District Manager Fell is to reach out to Mr. Wingfield about being an ex-officio member of the conservation district, which would allow him to inform the board when there is a project that the conservation district should become involved in. The State Range Judging Contest being held at the Yuma Fairgrounds on October 9, 2024, was

discussed by Ms. Gonzales explaining the many jobs that go into hosting the event. Supervisors Shaw, Zwirn and Smith volunteered to help with the event if time permits. In addition, a motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to donate \$100.00 to co-sponsor the event. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

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. Applicants are Alva Deterding, Jamie Deterding, Randall Boden, and the Marjorie Anderson Trust. Leroy Deterding and Alyse Wenstrom have decided not to participate. The Randall Boden and Jamie Deterding projects have been completed. The Marjorie Anderson Trust is completed and awaiting NRCS inspection and documentation of cancelled checks. Alva Deterding is working on installing a 30-foot stock tank.
- **50/50 Matching Grant 2025:** The matching grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the benefit of the Yuma Conservation District and the Yuma County Conservation District has been approved. The YCCD will administer grant funding for both conservation districts.
- **Bonny Demonstration Grant:** Attendees of the Republican River Watershed Meeting toured the site at the fall meeting. District Manager Fell is researching solar collars and has a phone call scheduled with a representative for Halter to gather more information about the collars (how they work in cloudy conditions, possibility of being a demo for the company to receive the collars at a discounted price, etc.).
- **NFWF Grant:** \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County is approved. A draft copy of the Cost Share Landowner Agreement was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to approve the Cost Share Landowner Agreement after the attorney reviews the revisions made as follows: *"It is required to allow at least one growing season of rest after chemical application to allow the native vegetation to reestablish before placing cattle back in the pastures, unless the project receives prior approval for grazing based on either light stocking rates shortened grazing periods, adequate rest or a combination of the aforementioned practices"*. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously. Spraying for cheat grass control is anticipated to begin at the end of September.
- **Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant:** The conservation district has been informed that a grant of \$20,000 has been approved. Spraying for cheat grass control is anticipated to begin at the end of September in conjunction with the NFWF 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. No additional information is available.
- **Colorado Soil Health Program –** Dustin Wise has submitted invoices for 2024, with the CDA approving payment. Brian Lengel has submitted invoices and is awaiting approval from the CDA. Producer reimbursement forms are due by September 30, 2024. The district has the opportunity to enroll 3 more producers by September 30, 2024. If we cannot find three producers to enroll from our district, we may contact the Yuma Conservation District to see if they have any producers that

are interested, provided the Yuma Conservation District signs a Memorandum of Agreement to that effect.

Office Assistant Deason informed the board that payment for cell phone service for the Washington County Conservation District has been received.

District Manager Fell, a representative from the City of Wray, and NRCS engineers conducted tours of all six dam sites in August. We are awaiting the report from NRCS on their findings.

CACD award nominations are due by October 15, 2024. The board would like to submit nominations for Chester Zwirn to the CACD Hall of Fame and Margaret Lenz as the CACD Supervisor of the Year. District Manager Fell and Office Assistant Deason are to work on getting the applications submitted. For 2025, the district may want to nominate a partner that has helped substantially with the Bonny Reservoir Project for the Outstanding Partner of the Year award. Another award nomination the district will work on for 2025 is for the CACD Conservationist of the Year.

There were no CACD Resolutions discussed by the board.

Plains Communication Services has installed wireless internet connectivity.

Website Accessibility has been tabled for a future meeting.

Wrayberry Graphics gave a quote of \$615.00 per sign for conservation district highway signs. The signs would be 4' X 5' and seven signs would be needed. Permission would be needed from landowners to place signs on their property. The district also needs to contact the adjoining conservation districts to see if they would want to participate and make the sign double sided Entering/Leaving Conservation District. A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to proceed with purchasing the signs. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. Supervisor Shaw volunteered to attend the Cope Conservation if needed to discuss sharing the cost of a sign.

Clarification was made that USDA NRCS non-discrimination statements in publications is needed only when doing partnerships with NRCS.

District Manager Fell will contact the Haxtun Conservation District to confirm the deletion of the Farming Evolutions website.

The Curt Fix water shortage was tabled due to more information being needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2008 Ford Pickup located at the Wray office which is owned by NRCS will be going up for auction. A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to bid a maximum of \$5,000 on the vehicle. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. Supervisor Smith will monitor the bidding and will use his best judgment as to the price and condition of the vehicle and whether to stay at the \$5,000.00 maximum.

The CACD annual meeting will be held December 2-4, 2024, at Colorado Springs. Supervisors are encouraged to attend. Supervisor Lenz plans to attend.

The preliminary planning for the 2025 budget has been tabled for a future meeting. Suggested projects to include in the budget for 2025 were establishing a Farmers Market and doing a Small Acreage Homestead field day.

The theme of the CACD Poster Contest is "May the Forest Be With You Always". Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 8th. Suggested individuals to make co-presentations with District Manager Fell to the 5th and 6th graders were Linda Langelo (CSU Extension Horticulture Specialist), James Depue (Wray City Manager doing a project on tree assessments in Wray), or a forester from the Larimer County Conservation District.

President Lenz gave a report on the recent CSCB meeting she attended. A farm tour outside Rocky Ford, approval of matching grants, approval of DTC grants and Land use were some of the items on the agenda.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the NCDEA meeting she attended in Billings, MT. A tree farm tour and a tour of the river washed out and what the conservation district was doing for recovering efforts were on the agenda. District Manager Fell also attended the leadership conference in Salida.

The 30-day review period for District Technician Trejo was held. District Technician Trejo has been doing a great job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

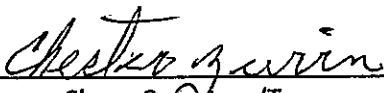
There were no items brought before the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

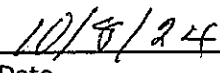
A motion was made by Supervisor Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously, with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

The next regular YCCD meeting has been scheduled for October 8, 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