**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**November 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District was called to order by President Margaret Lenz at 10:07am at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Those attending included: Margaret Lenz, Jeff Wingfield, Ron Richards, Dustin Wise and Tanya Fell.

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

Dustin moved to approve the October 25, 2022, meeting minutes, Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tanya Fell presented the financials. Jeff moved to accept the financial report and pay the November bills, Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed. The current bills paid:

* District Manager Paycheck
* Matching Grant Check – Deterding

The board also reviewed the preliminary 2023 budget and made suggestions and adjustments. A motion to accept the budget with changes was made by Dustin and seconded by Ron. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Now that the final matching grant has been paid out for the 2021 matching grant program, Tanya is to calculate the remaining portion of available funds. The remaining funds will be distributed to the individuals who paid above and beyond the matching amount.

The Annual Meeting will be held mid-January in Wray, hopefully on a Wednesday. Tanya is having issues contacting Brian Bledsoe, the meteorologist with KKTV in Colorado Springs. In addition, she spoke with Chris West from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation and RESTORE Colorado about participating as a speaker.

The board discussed the CACD resolutions. Individual board members were encouraged to participate on the evening committee meetings and to also participate at the watershed meetings to become more active. Dustin will call in and represent the YCCD for the Education resolution meeting to answer any questions that the group might have pertaining to our resolution.

Tanya also received a letter from the Jefferson County conservation district pertaining to the CACD’s handling of the issues at Camp Rocky. The board discussed your conservation district should participate in this discussion at the annual meeting. It was determined that we would listen but not be involved.

Tanya is to contact Plains telephone to see if Wi-Fi is now available for the conservation district in the office.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The board discussed the hiring of a second person to assist with duties for the conservation district. Tanya is to create a job description and the number of hours for assistance to present at the next meeting.

The YCCD board would like to purchase new tree planting equipment for rental by producers. Dustin is to research the specific equipment and report back at the December meeting.

From this point forward the YCCD will no longer coordinate the planting of trees by contractors. Individual contractors’ businesses will be shared with interested producers, and it will be up to the producer to coordinate the planting themselves.

The 2023 matching grant program can be promoted prior to January 1, 2023 but no action or billing can occur prior to the beginning of the year. The YCCD will write a media release and put the information on the website for producers to complete applications that will be due December 30, 2022. The board will then be able to evaluate the applications at the January meeting.

The next board meeting will be held at 9:00am in Idalia at the Homestead followed by the budget hearing will be held at 11:00 and a prospective producer meeting for the Bonny Grazing Project will begin at 1:00. Producers will meet at the Homestead, then travel to Bonny to see the actual area for this project and then travel back to the Homestead for a presentation and Q&A. Applications will be distributed at that time.

The board also discussed a few program and project ideas for 2023 including the STAR Plus program, a cover crop workshop and the board is to bring more ideas to the December meeting.

A motion was made by Ron to dispense with an executive session. Dustin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dustin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.

The next YCCD meeting will be held December 6th at 9:00am at the Homestead in Idalia.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Fell

District Manager

Yuma County Conservation District