

247 N CLAY STREET
WRAY, CO 80758
970-332-3107 EXT. 9002
www.ycconservation.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Sonya Shaw, Darrell Smith, and Chester Zwirn
Supervisors Absent: none
Ex officio Members: Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU
Staff Present: Shirley Deason and Tanya Fell

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 6:15 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference.

The oath of office was administered to Darrell Smith by President Lenz.

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

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was made on a motion by Supervisor Richards. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Shaw moved to approve the May 14, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May payroll○ Lincoln Oaks○ Tree Source○ Big Sioux Nursery○ WISH○ Wray Gazette○ Quality Farm and Ranch○ Premier Accounting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jenna Wieser - scholarship○ Chris McAfoos - reimbursement○ Fred Barker - reimbursement○ Jory Drager- tree volume discount○ Charles Gerk – tree volume discount○ Amber Ringlein - tree volume discount○ Chris Stults - tree volume discount○ Larimer Conservation District |
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Supervisors signed updated signature cards for First Pioneer National Bank and Wray State Bank.

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: Alyse Wenstrom, Alva Deterding, Leroy Deterding (pending state land

lease is eligible), Jamie Deterding, Randall Boden, and the Marjorie Anderson Trust. Randall Boden has completed his project, and we are awaiting an inspection from NRCS.

- **Bonny Demonstration Grant:** District Manager Fell has been in contact with cooperator Richards. Bonny is mowed and ready to fence. Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU, talked about expanding Area III by approximately 100 acres. Also, he spoke about virtual fencing, stating that more research needs to be completed before implementing this project. There are still questions that need to be answered concerning the number and cost of towers needed. If it is not cost prohibitive, virtual fencing may be implemented in the fall.
- **NFWF Grant:** \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County. The Yuma County Conservation District has been informed that the grant has been approved. Kelsea Holloway with U.S. Fish and Wildlife is sending out notices to producers that have shown an interest in spraying for cheat grass control requesting them to come to the Wray office on June 24th or July 2nd so that they can map out areas to be sprayed this fall.
- **Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant:** The district applied for a \$75,000 grant in February 2024. The conservation district has not received any information on the status of the grant.
- **RCP – Rejuvra:** Grant has been reopened for applications with the conservation district's partners to help with revising and submitting the application which is due by July 2nd. The focus of the grant has been changed to carbon sequestration.
- **Colorado Soil Health Program:** Installation of soil moisture sensors has been scheduled for June 26th – June 28th. Producer Stults wants to drop out of the program as he did not realize that he had to provide a 1 to 1 match. As no significant monies had been spent on his application, it was approved to remove him from the program. In the fall, an additional enrollment period where the district can fill any open slots in the program will be available to interested producers. District Manager Fell is to contact Vanessa McCracken with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to get the installation specifications to determine if a trencher is needed for the installation of the moisture probes.

District Manager Fell gave an update on the tree sales stating that all invoices for trees purchased had been paid and discussing security issues to resolve the theft of trees from the fish hatchery site.

Farming Evolutions and summer field days were discussed by the board. President Lenz attended the Haxtun Conservation District Board meeting in May, and the Haxtun Conservation District has decided that they will do field days with a wrap up in February. After discussion about continuing the Farming Evolutions event as a co-sponsor, it was moved by Supervisor Richards to no longer co-sponsor the Farming Evolutions event in February, request 50% of the profits from the 2024 Farming Evolutions event from the Haxtun Conservation District, request access to "The Barn" for media from past Farming Evolutions events which may be posted on our website, and turn the Farming Evolutions website over to the Haxtun Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously. The Yuma County Conservation District will host their own field days and will advertise the Haxtun Conservation District's field days on our website, if we are given notice of them.

The board was informed that the past due bill of the Washington County Conservation District has been paid. Office Assistant Deason called District Manager Devony Bethel on June 10, 2024, to ask how the Washington County Conservation District wished to pay future bills - monthly or a yearly advance with the monthly bill to be deducted from that advance. District Manager Bethel requested the Yuma County Conservation District draw up a cell phone reimbursement agreement between the two conservation districts. Supervisor Richards moved to approve the Cell Phone Reimbursement Agreement. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously. The Cell Phone Reimbursement Agreement will be forwarded to the Washington County Conservation District for their review and approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Technician applications received from Niki Alexander, Thomas Moore, Roy Shapley, and April Tracy were reviewed. The board was informed that Dollie Gonzalez with NRCS had indicated that she knew of a possible applicant for the position also. Interviews with Roy Shapley and April Tracy are to be scheduled for June 20th starting at 6:30 p.m. with 45-minute intervals between applicants. If an application is received from the individual that Dollie Gonzalez stated had an interest in the job, that person will also be scheduled for an interview. In addition, a computer test will be administered to those applicants that will be interviewed.

Supervisor Smith moved to approve the purchase of a new printer for Office Assistant Deason. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

President Lenz gave a report on the Colorado State Conservation Board meeting. The CSCB board met the previous week and toured solar farms in Boulder and Weld counties. There was also a demonstration conducted at a Longmont solar farm. The CSCB board is recommending that local conservation districts become involved with local planning commissions to recommend they consider the benefits of having agricultural practices established underneath the solar panels. Tax credits for regenerative agriculture were also discussed at the meeting. President Lenz recommended inviting Les Owens, Division Director for the Colorado Department of Agriculture and/or Nikki Brinson, Program Manager for the Colorado State Conservation Board to the next Republican River Watershed Association meeting to be held August 28th to speak on the subject. In addition, the CSCB board has approved direct assistance to those districts that have completed their annual reports.

The Yuma County Planning Committee Recommendations were discussed which included talking to committee members about solar farms. The board recommended inviting committee member Jeff Wingfield to the next Yuma County Conservation District meeting. A YCCD board member or staff member should attend their meeting to suggest they consider adopting a policy that addresses adding agricultural practices that would be viable should a solar farm be established in the future. Also, if scheduling permits, District Manager Fell will attend the County Commissioners meetings.

District Manager Fell gave a presentation about "Garden in a Box". These are low-watering gardening made easy kits that include plant-by-number maps. They are currently sold by two other conservation districts in the state. District Manager Fell is to check whether there might be any type of grants or assistance available to help lower the cost of the kits which would then be sold to individuals located in the conservation district's boundaries.

Camp Rocky is an educational, week-long residential camp for 14 – 17-year-olds who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources, agriculture or environmental science that will be held July 7th-12th. Area youth have been encouraged to sign up for the camp.

A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to dispense with the executive session. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

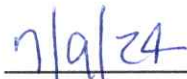
A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

The YCCD will meet on June 20th for the purpose of conducting interviews for the District Technician position only. The next regular YCCD meeting has been scheduled for July 9, 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



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES June 20, 2024

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

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 6:20 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference.

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

Due to having a meeting on June 11, 2024, no minutes or financial reports were submitted for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

The YCCD Board reviewed the applications that were submitted by Jacob Nichol, April Tracy, and Roy Shapley. The board then interviewed applicants Roy Shapley and April Tracy for the position of District Conservation Technician. After District Manager Fell checks references on the applicants, Supervisors will vote by email on the District Conservation Technician position.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

There were no items to be brought before the executive session.

President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

The next regular YCCD meeting has been scheduled for July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonya Shaw".

Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "7/9/24".

Date